

Cabinet okays spending of budget funds

AMMAN (Petra) — The Government on Wednesday gave approval to various ministries and departments to start spending from the 1987 budget allocations. The order gives details about filling vacant posts and the manner in which the different departments will disburse with their allocations during the current fiscal year. According to a Cabinet statement, a total of 5,816 new jobs in various departments and ministries have been created and are distributed as follows: the Ministry of Education — 3,500; the Ministry of Health — 1,100; the Ministry of Higher Education — 250; the Telecommunications Corporation — 75; the Ministry of Communications — 200; the Ministry of Interior — 75; and the rest of the ministries and departments — 616. These new positions will be filled in addition to 1,242 posts already vacant in different ministries.

King receives Senegalese message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The message was delivered to the King on Wednesday at the Royal Court by Senegalese envoy Ahmad Khalifeh Neyasi, president of the Islamic Agricultural Corporation in Senegal.

King sends good wishes to Bangladesh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to Bangladesh President General Hussain Mohammad Ershad congratulating him on the occasion of Bangladesh's National Day. In his cable the King wished President Ershad continuing good health and happiness and the people of Bangladesh further progress and prosperity.

Pertini's condition worsens in hospital

ROME (AP) — Former President Sandro Pertini, 91, who collapsed Monday during a funeral, took a turn for the worse Wednesday and doctors said they will install a pacemaker. A medical bulletin issued by the Rome Polyclinic Hospital said Mr. Pertini's condition had been improving but worsened during the night. Mr. Pertini collapsed during the state funeral for an air force general killed last Friday in an attack claimed by leftists.

Tindemans to meet U.N. chief on Mideast

BRUSSELS (AP) — The chairman of the European Community Council of Ministers, Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, will go to New York Thursday for talks with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar about the Middle East. The Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday. The EEC last month gave its support to the idea of a U.N.-sponsored international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Tindemans will also discuss with Mr. Perez de Cuellar the Iran-Iraq war, and the situation in southern Africa and Central America, the ministry added. The Belgian foreign minister has said earlier that he was ready to go to the Middle East if chances existed for promoting the idea of an international conference.

Muslim Brotherhood enters Egypt polls

CAIRO (R) — A spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood said Wednesday he hoped his banned organisation and its opposition party allies would win 30 per cent of votes in next month's parliamentary elections in Egypt. The Muslim Brotherhood is circumventing a ban on its activities dating back to 1954 by allying itself with the National Liberal Party and the Socialist Labour Party for the elections on April 6. It won eight seats in 1984 in the last elections to the 448-seat People's Assembly (parliament) when it stood in partnership with the opposition Wafd Party.

INSIDE

- Egypt demands withdrawal of Libyan troops from Sudan, page 2
- Jordan marks Israel's 19th anniversary today, page 3
- America is the Jews' "promised land," page 4
- English language teaching in Jordan: the role of the teacher, page 5
- Prince Abdullah sees off air race to Rome, page 6
- Britain defends oil policy, page 7
- Death toll goes up in Pakistan in Afghan air raids, page 8

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King reaffirms total commitment to efforts for int'l conference

Soviet team voices support for Jordan's endeavours

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday reaffirmed Jordan's total commitment to efforts for convening a U.N.-sponsored international conference describing it as the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East.

King Hussein was speaking at a meeting with a visiting Soviet delegation from the Supreme Soviet.

Vladimir Orlov, head of the delegation, conveyed to the King the Soviet Union's support for Jordan's endeavours for convening the conference. The meeting at the Royal Court was attended by Ismail Hijazi, deputy speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, and Hani Kheir, Parliament's secretary general.

Mr. Orlov, who arrived in Amman Tuesday on a week-long visit to Jordan, earlier held talks with Mr. Hijazi, who reiterated Jordan's position with regard to the Middle East issue and the proposal for an international conference. Mr. Hijazi referred to the situation in the occupied Arab territories and spoke about Israel's arbitrary measures against the indigenous Arab population and the Jewish state's confiscation of Arab lands.

He also outlined Jordan's parliamentary system and activities.

strong ties of friendship between the two countries based on mutual respect and close cooperation," Mr. Lawzi said.

The speaker urged the Soviet Union to help bring an end to the Gulf war which he said was causing a tragedy to the people of the region.

Mr. Orlov said the Middle East question had a special role in Soviet policy and for this reason Moscow supported Jordan's endeavours to bring a lasting peace to the region.

Mr. Orlov said the root causes of tension in the region stemmed from Israel's expansionist policies and its persistence in ignoring peace initiatives.

Mr. Orlov and the delegation were later received by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri. The minister and the delegation reviewed Jordanian-Soviet relations and Mr. Masri paid tribute to Moscow and its support for Arab causes and rights and said that the views of both sides were identical on many world issues, specially nuclear disarmament and endeavours for enhancing world security and peace.

Mr. Orlov paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts on the international level to enlist support for the proposed Mideast conference which seeks to establish a lasting peace in the region.

Carter calls on Reagan administration to accept idea of world talks on Mideast

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on Wednesday urged the administration of Ronald Reagan to accept the concept of an international peace conference to negotiate a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said the conference was "an excellent approach" to peace negotiations.

Mr. Carter said his views on the proposed conference were compatible with those of Jordan and Syria, and expressed hope that Israeli leaders and the Reagan administration would be as flexible as His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The former president, who is scheduled to meet with Israeli leaders on Thursday, said he believed that Israel "should withdraw from the occupied Arab territories." He said that Palestinians under Israeli occupation should be granted the right to self-determination or full autonomy.

Mr. Carter told a press conference he opposed the principle of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories and proposed "some sort of relation with Jordan to be determined by the people involved." He later referred to a federation or confederation between the Kingdom and the territories.

On his talks with King Hussein, Mr. Carter said "it's obvious the King is deeply dedicated to the cause of peace." He described Arab leaders he met during his tour as having "a great deal of flexibility" vis-a-vis the international conference.

Asked whether he would be carrying any specific impressions to Israel, Mr. Carter said his talks with Arab leaders indicated that "peace can be pursued," adding that however, these impressions "will not be news because the Israelis already know this."

"As one of the authors of Camp David," Mr. Carter said, "I hope I will be able to have some impact" on the Israeli leaders.

He said that the Camp David treaty, signed eight years ago, on Thursday, had "served its purpose" but that an international conference at this stage would be "more suitable for the ultimate outcome of peace negotiations."

On his talks with Mr. Assad, the former president praised Syrian efforts towards securing freedom for American hostages held in Lebanon. "President Assad is determined that no terrorist acts would originate from his country," he said.

Replying to a question on whether he had met with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials during his tour, which also took him to Egypt and Algiers, Mr. Carter said: "I have met with PLO officials in Egypt and Jordan in the past. As a private citizen, I have no constraints to meet PLO officials." He did not say whether he had such meetings during his present tour.

On the crisis in Washington over the secret arms shipments to Iran, Mr. Carter said the scandal "embarrassed the president (Mr. Reagan) and shocked the world." He added that "it wouldn't have happened had I been in office."

Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Carter, now a professor at Emory University, delivered a brief lecture at the World Affairs Council in which he reviewed the U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East during his administration.

During a visit he made earlier to University of Jordan, Mr. Carter told a gathering of academics including the presidents of Jordanian universities, that his visit was aimed at contributing to "bringing views closer" towards a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem.

University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali said in a statement during the meeting that the U.S. support for Israel "limits its role in the region" in the search for peace.

He said that the U.S. opposition to Palestinian rights was "surprising, considering American principles of freedom and equality and self-determination."



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday confers with Mr. Vladimir Orlov, head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Ghali: U.S. stand over PLO hinders Washington's Mideast role

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt said Wednesday Washington's refusal to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hindered its role in the search for a Middle East settlement.

"The United States is more qualified than any other power to help attain this solution," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told a symposium on Egyptian-American relations.

"But what hinders this positive U.S. contribution is certainly the refusal to talk to that organisation which is universally recognised as representing the Palestinian people, namely the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

Dr. Ghali underlined Egypt's support for an international Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices, saying it would give hope to Arabs and Israelis.

"The U.S. has its reservations on the idea, but I am convinced that the U.S. in its quest for peace, shall be willing to knock at every door," he said.

Dr. Ghali's remarks came one day after Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid discussed details of the conference with a U.S. envoy, in what seemed to be a fresh sign of Washington's interest in exploring the idea.

In a separate statement marking the eighth anniversary of the U.S.-brokered Egyptian-Israeli treaty, Dr. Ghali said Israel was creating "additional obstacles" in the way of peace by continuing to occupy Arab territory.

"The treaty cannot be complete until the Palestinian people get their right to self-determination," he said.

The anniversary of the treaty, signed by the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, falls on Thursday.

In a further flurry of contacts, Mr. Abdul-Meguid had talks on Wednesday on the proposed conference with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's political adviser, Hani Al Hassan, who delivered a message to President Hosni Mubarak from Mr. Arafat on Tuesday.

Israeli-Arab statement backs peace conference

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestinian groups led by former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Palestinian newspaper editor Hanna Siniora issued on Wednesday a rare joint statement calling for an international Middle East peace conference.

"Negotiations... should be conducted within the framework of an agreed international conference and directly between recognised and legitimate representatives of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian people..." the statement said.

"A peace settlement must contain elements meeting the legitimate security rights of Israel and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians," it added.

The statement followed months of talks, but its failure to refer explicitly to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) led some prominent Palestinians to withdraw support at the last minute, Mr. Siniora told Reuters.

Mr. Siniora is a noted PLO supporter who regularly meets PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Eban, head of parliament's influential foreign affairs and de-

Israel to expel Al Najah student

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities on Wednesday ordered the expulsion of a Palestinian student accused of inciting violence and membership in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a military spokesman said.

The army ordered the detention of the student, Khalil Ashur, 44, of Al Najah university in Nablus, until his deportation for which no date has yet been set, added the spokesman.

It was Israel's 16th expulsion order against Palestinians from the occupied territories since a crackdown on Palestinian activists was launched in August 1985.

Most of the Palestinians were deported to the East Bank. Al Najah is the West Bank's largest Palestinian university and a frequent site of clashes with Israeli troops. It has a student body of more than 3,000.

The spokesman contended that Mr. Ashur was responsible for organising violent protests at the campus last month. Mr. Ashur, a resident of the Askar refugee camp outside Nablus, spent 12 years in prison between 1970 and 1982 for allegedly participating in a grenade attack and being an active member of the PLO, according to the spokesman.

Since then, he was also detained without trial for 12 months under an administrative detention order, the spokesman said.

Mr. Ashur can appeal against the order to a military tribunal and Israel's supreme court, although both have rejected challenges to previous expulsion orders.

Israel has expelled two other Palestinians in the last three months — East Jerusalem newspaper editor Akram Haniyeh in December and Mohammad Youssef Dahlan.

East bloc urges West to accept missiles deal

MOSCOW (R) — Warsaw Pact foreign ministers concluded their first meeting since last October on Wednesday with an appeal to the United States and its allies to accept a Soviet offer on removing all medium-range missiles from Europe.

"The signing of such an agreement would open the way for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from Europe," a Soviet deputy foreign minister, Vadim Logunov, told a news conference after the two-day talks.

He said the ministers had also called for an international convention banning chemical weapons, urged an end to nuclear weapons tests and restated their opposition to the U.S. "Star Wars" plans for an anti-missile defence partly based in space.

He said the Kremlin hoped for an accord that would reduce the number of shorter-range missiles

in Europe, rather than an agreement which would permit the Atlantic alliance to build up its strength to match that of the Soviet Union.

A senior Soviet arms control official, Viktor Karpov, said last weekend that the United States was damaging the prospects for a medium-range missiles deal by demanding the right to convert its Pershing-2 rockets into shorter-range missiles.

Some U.S. and allied officials, while welcoming the Soviet medium-range missiles offer, have said the West must not accept it without setting the problem of the shorter-range weapons, defined as those with a range of up to 1,000 kilometres.

Mr. Logunov said the Warsaw Pact meeting had been devoted largely to issues of European security.

Libyans said leaving Faya Largeau

PARIS (AP) — The Chadian government, in three days of fighting against Libyan troops, says it killed 2,053 and took 559 prisoners in what French military officials consider a turning point in President Hissene Habre's struggle to push the Libyans out of northern Chad.

In a fierce two-hour battle Sunday, government troops routed the garrison at the major Libyan air base at Ouadi Doum, destroying or capturing vast amounts of military equipment. Informed sources in Paris said Libyan columns also had begun pulling out of Faya Largeau, Libya's last major stronghold in Chad.

The Paris sources said the Libyan garrison at Faya Largeau, 150 kilometres south of Ouadi Doum, began evacuating early Wednesday in a slow and disorganised manner.

The French Defence Ministry would not immediately confirm the withdrawal from Faya Largeau.

Andreotti drops coalition efforts; early elections seen possible

ROME (R) — Veteran politician Giulio Andreotti abandoned his attempts to form a government on Wednesday, leaving Italy on course for early elections, political sources said.

Christian Democrat Andreotti told President Francesco Cossiga he was unable to reconstruct the outgoing five-party coalition after two weeks of negotiations, the sources added.

The two men had a 20-minute meeting Wednesday evening before Mr. Andreotti, the foreign minister in the outgoing administration, announced his decision to give up his mandate as prime minister-designate.

Mr. Andreotti's hopes had

rested on a complex new plan for settling a dispute between his Christian Democrats and the Socialists of outgoing Prime Minister Bettino Craxi about three referendums on nuclear energy, due in June.

Political sources said that if Mr. Andreotti, five times prime minister and one of Italy's most experienced politicians, was unable to rebuild the coalition the task was probably impossible and elections, scheduled for next year, would have to be brought forward.

Elections could be held on May 31 if called by mid-April, they said.

BOOKS AT A SPECIAL DISCOUNT

The Book Exhibition at the Sayegh Commercial Centre in Abdali is displaying the latest in Politics, Art, Middle Eastern and Children's books from all countries of the world.

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. until April 8.

Egypt demands withdrawal of Libyan troops from Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Accusing Libya of "irresponsible actions," Egypt demanded on Wednesday withdrawal of Libyan troops said to have intruded into Sudan.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters that Libya's behaviour threatens the stability of northern Africa.

Sudanese Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi told the Constituent Assembly, Sudan's parliament, on Monday that up to 1,000 Libyan troops were in western Sudan and that Tripoli had ignored repeated Sudanese demands that they be withdrawn. He said Libya, instead of pulling out its men, had moved them westward toward the border with Chad for use in attacking government forces there.

The official Libyan News Agency JANA on Tuesday denied that Libya has troops in Sudan.

"Egypt fully supports the Sudanese government position in demanding the withdrawal of Libyan forces present on Sudanese territory adjacent to the Chad border," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

Egypt and Sudan are bound by a 1976 mutual defence pact and a "brotherhood charter" for close cooperation that was signed this year. Under the military pact, the two countries would aid each other in the event of external aggression.

Adam Moussa Madibu, Sudan's energy and mining minister, has ruled out military action by Sudan to expel the Libyans. In remarks to the official Sudan News Agency on Tuesday, he said the government was considering only diplomatic action.

"The presence of Libyan troops inside Sudan is a violation of Sudanese sovereignty," Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters. "Egypt is keen on preserving the stability of the region and the security and territorial integrity of Sudan."

"Egypt holds that these irresponsible actions by Libya under-

mine this stability and threaten neighbouring countries."

He said Egypt also "condemns Libya's continued attacks on Chad," where France and the United States say 11,000 to 14,000 Libyan troops are supporting Chadian rebels against President Hissene Habre's army.

In N'djamena Chad's military high command said Wednesday troops killed 1,269 Libyan soldiers in routing a 5,000-strong force to capture Tripoli's major air base in northern Chad on Sunday.

In its first published casualty list from the fierce battle for Ouadi Doum Air Base, the high command said 438 Libyans were taken prisoner, while 29 Chadian soldiers were killed and 58 wounded.

It said the prisoners included the regional commander, Col. Khalifa Abdul Gassim Haster, while his deputy, Col. Gassim Ali Abu Nawar, was among the dead.

The Chadian army also captured substantial amounts of weaponry, including 11 Czechoslovak-made L-39 bombers, three

Soviet Mi-24 fighter helicopters and a large number of tanks, as well as hundreds of other vehicles armed with guns or anti-aircraft missiles.

Following Sunday's battle, French officers said the fall of Ouadi Doum deprived Libya of its only hard runway air base in Chad. Its main stronghold, Faya Largeau some 230 kilometres north of the so-called "red line" along the 16th parallel, was left increasingly exposed.

The 16th parallel divides the central African country into government-held zones in the south and mainly Libyan-controlled areas in the north.

The capture of the air base followed the taking of the oasis town of Fada north of the red line by Mr. Habre's forces in January.

Chad's high command said its army destroyed a considerable amount of Libyan equipment in the fighting around Ouadi Doum, including four L-39 bombers, two Soviet Tupolev 22 bombers and one Soviet MIG-21 fighter.

It also destroyed six other aircraft, three helicopters, 47 T-55 tanks, as well as armoured vehicles and heavy artillery.

King Fahd, Thatcher hold talks

LONDON (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia met Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for talks Wednesday.

During the talks at 10 Downing Street, Mrs. Thatcher's official residence, the leader of one of the Arab World's most influential states was also expected to bring up the Gulf war and the stalled Middle East peace process, British officials said.

At a state banquet in honour of King Fahd Tuesday night, Queen Elizabeth said Britain would do all it could to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and end the war between Iran and Iraq.

Wednesday's talks are considered the most important part of the 65-year-old king's four-day state visit to Britain, which has so far been largely taken up with ceremonial duties aimed at strengthening ties between the royal families of the two countries.

U.S. says world interests at stake in Gulf war

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A U.S. Defence Department official said March 24 that the interests of most of the civilised world are at stake in the Iran-Iraq war.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Frank Gaffney told a Foreign Press Centre briefing that the conflict affects more than those nations bordering the Gulf.

All countries that rely upon oil from that part of the world and that desire a stable Middle East "must appreciate that their interests are at stake there," he said at a briefing on the new Defence Department report entitled "Soviet Military Power, 1987."

Mr. Gaffney reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to achieve an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict "which will ensure that there is no victor, there is no loser, but that we are able to return to the status quo in a way that permits a basis for stability."

Tunisia reiterates support for Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia reiterated Wednesday that his country supported Iraq in its war with Iran, now in its seventh year.

The official Iraqi News Agency INA said Mr. Bourguiba expressed solidarity with Iraq in its "just defence for sovereignty and for peace" in a verbal message conveyed to President Saddam Hussein by Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk.

Mr. Mabrouk arrived in Baghdad Tuesday night on a previously unannounced visit to Iraq.

Mr. Hussein said he appreciated Mr. Bourguiba's "principled and brave positions in support of Iraq in its just battle against Iran."

An interview with Mr. Star was published by the Iraqi magazine Alif Baa and excerpts were carried by the government Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Nicosia.

The magazine quoted Mr. Star as saying the continuation of the Gulf war "will give foreign forces an excuse for intervention in the area," INA reported.

Mr. Star called on Iran to accept Iraq's peace overtures to end the conflict.

Mr. Star's call came amid rising tension in the Gulf as Iran deployed coast-to-sea missiles near the strategic Strait of Hormuz and the United States was building up its naval forces in the region.

Musavi challenges U.S. threats to Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's Prime Minister Hussein Musavi Wednesday challenged U.S. threats of military action in the Gulf and said America will be forced to retreat and then "send us other McFarlanes carrying signed Bibles."

"They must know that American power is nothing compared to Islam," the state-run Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Musavi as saying.

Mr. Musavi's remarks were the latest in a string of warnings by Iranian leaders to threats made by U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger that the United States is prepared to protect oil tankers against Iranian attacks in the Gulf and is drawing contingency plans for military action.

Mr. Weinberger said Sunday Iran had deployed Chinese-made

HY-2 anti-ship missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, and feared Iran may try to close the strategic waterway.

"In all circumstances, the Americans, will leave the region in shame and will send us other McFarlanes carrying signed Bibles," Mr. Musavi said.

He was referring to a secret visit to Tehran last year by former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane in an attempt to establish contacts with leaders of the fundamentalist government.

McFarlane presented the Iranians with a Bible carrying the signature of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, expressing hopes that relations between the two countries would be revived.

"If America was capable (had power), it would have kept the shah" — the former U.S.-backed

Iranian monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi who was toppled by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Mr. Musavi said Iran had declared early last year when it occupied the Iraqi Fao peninsula in the Shatt Al Arab waterway that it had coast-to-sea missiles. Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980.

"We declare again today that these missiles are not the maximum of our armaments in the Gulf... we possess more effective missiles and weapons," Mr. Musavi added.

"It is us who will take all necessary action to protect the region against the danger of the great Satan. The security of the Gulf is of no concern for America."

Israeli panel 'dismayed' by Pollard cover up

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli parliamentary panel investigating the Jonathan Pollard spy affair has found evidence of a government cover-up after discovery that Israel spied on the United States, political sources said Wednesday.

A state radio report said the Knesset Intelligence Subcommittee was dismayed by "lies, contradictions and attempts at a whitewash" over the affair of the U.S. navy analyst who passed top secret documents to Israel.

The panel, headed by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, is probing how Israel came to spy on its closest ally, who bore political responsibility and why those Israelis involved in the operation

were subsequently rewarded with plum government jobs.

Sources close to the investigation said Israel's three senior political leaders — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, — appeared to have rehearsed their testimony together.

They seemed to use agreed phraseology and identical wording in their separate appearances, the sources said.

The radio said that when Pollard was arrested in November 1985 after being refused asylum at the Israeli embassy in Washington, the response of Israel's leadership was "one of confusion, superficiality and down-

right panic."

Pollard, 32, was sentenced to life imprisonment this month for passing hundreds of secret documents to Israel over an 18-month period in an affair that strained Israel's close ties to the United States.

Government leaders have insisted they knew nothing about the operation, blaming it instead on a now-disbanded "rogue intelligence unit."

The sources said Rafi Eitan, the veteran spy master behind the operation, told the committee he did not seek specific ministerial authority to recruit an agent in Washington, believing he had general authority to act as he saw fit.

Qadhafi: War could lead to Khomeini's downfall

BEIRUT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has said the "crazy war" between Iran and Iraq could lead to the collapse of Tehran's revolutionary Islamic government, a Palestinian magazine reported.

"The imperialist powers want to destroy the Iranian revolution and want Iraq to drown in this crazy war," Col. Qadhafi was quoted as saying by Al Hurriyah, a weekly published by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The DFLP provided a copy of the latest edition of the Cyprus-based magazine to Reuters in mainly Muslim west Beirut Wednesday. It did not say when Col. Qadhafi gave the Tripoli interview.

"... I fear the continuation of this war could lead to the collapse of the Iranian leadership," Col. Qadhafi said.

"The Iranians might disapprove of what I say. Of course I

don't wish for the fall of the Iranian leadership, but I fear... the continuation of the conflict, in which case America could bring in what it calls a moderate leadership to replace the revolutionary one."

He described the six-year war as "an international imperialist conspiracy" aimed at destroying both Iran and Iraq because the two states posed a threat to Israel.

Col. Qadhafi urged all Palestinian factions to meet to settle their differences and, if necessary, put Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat on trial.

"If Arafat is the problem, let the Palestinians meet and, if he is really a traitor, then he should be put on trial and isolated," he said.

Damascus held the key to the five-month "camps war" between Palestinians and Shi'ite Muslim fighters in Lebanon, he said.

Court permits testimony of W. German in trial of Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (AP) — Judges hearing the trial of John Demjanjuk ruled Wednesday to allow testimony from a West German state attorney who prosecuted SS officers from a camp where Demjanjuk allegedly trained as a Nazi guard.

Demjanjuk's American attorney Mark O'Connor tried to block Helge Grabitz of Hamburg, West Germany, from testifying, claiming the defence had not been given enough time to prepare for her testimony.

Mrs. Grabitz was the prosecutor in the 1972-76 trial of Nazi officers at Nuremberg.

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme Review
15:45 Tom Sawyer
16:35 Don Quixote Show
17:35 Local Health programme
18:30 French Teaching programme
18:35 Local contact programme
19:30 News programme
19:35 Programme Review and varieties
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic series
21:25 Tomorrow's programmes
21:30 Varieties
22:30 Arabic film
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Film continued

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 L'au des hommes
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le camp partage
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 World Sports
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Paul Daniel Show
21:10 Remington Steele
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The Father Like Son"

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:30 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 The Story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Now Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Just a Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 The Musical in Review
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of photographs by French artists entitled "L'Oeil et l'Oratoire" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 27).

* The Italian embassy presents an exhibition entitled "Florence on the Past: The Rome Project" at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 29).

SONGS

* By Mrs. Tania Nasser at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

PLAY

* "Arabic plays for children daily at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31).

VIDEO

* "Les robots et les hommes" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
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British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637003
Gentle Institute .. 641993
Greek Cultural Centre .. 6204093
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 6204093
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
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American Municipal Library .. 636111
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MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum," Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Feldberg Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaic

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:40 Damascus, Athens (OA)
06:40 Damascus, Paris (AF)
13:30 Tripoli (LN)
13:30 Baghdad (IA)
14:30 Bahrain, Doha (GF)
15:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
16:30 Riyadh (SV)
20:30 Sana'a (SA)
20:30 Cairo (MS)

ARRIVALS

09:00 Agaba (RJ)
09:00 Cairo (RJ)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 Doha (RJ)
09:00 Bahrain (RJ)
09:00 Kuwait (RJ)
09:00 Cairo (RJ)
09:00 London (RJ)
09:00 Baghdad (RJ)
09:00 Rome (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

11:45 Kuwait (LN)
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
12:30 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:30 Amsterdam, Doha (KL)
19:10 Frankfurt (LH)
19:35 Cairo (MS)
20:30 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
09:30 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Agaba (RJ)
06:45 Rome (RJ)
11:50 Larnaca, Bucharest (RJ)
11:50 Cairo (RJ)
11:50 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah (RJ)
12:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
12:30 Baghdad (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
12:30 Bangkok (RJ)

FOR FRIDAY

21:00 Arabic Series
21:00 Studio 86 (Arabic)
23:00 News Summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French film
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 World Sports
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Thelma (Comedy)
21:00 Weekly Preview
21:10 Falcon Crest
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Unnatural Cause

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

09:00 Agaba (RJ)
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate .. 891228
Amman Civil Defence .. 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid .. 271293, 273133
Civil Defence Qadisiyah .. 770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla .. 57906
Ambulance .. 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198
Jordan and Middle East calls .. 19
Overseas calls .. 661912
Repair service .. 11

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Anwar Aghabaw .. 642606
Dr. Nabih Hisanawi .. 773849

Salam Pharmacy .. 636787
Nabih Pharmacy .. 725672
Sahab pharmacy .. 660565
Khalaf pharmacy .. 776663
Firas pharmacy .. 661912
Al Ferdows pharmacy .. 787336

TAXIS

Wahda taxi .. 641833
Khaloud taxi .. 664888
Bassam taxi .. 811657
Abul taxi .. 624412
Hoyan taxi .. 811617
Balasah taxi .. 845120
Mahar taxi .. 77054
Mahar taxi .. 896743

IRBID

Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek .. 275925
University pharmacy .. (-)
Shara's pharmacy .. (-)

ZARQA

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih .. 984671
Fadi pharmacy .. (-)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple (all kinds) .. 310 / 270
Banana .. 320 / 270
Banana (Mukannan) .. 270 / 220
Beans .. 460 / 400
Broad beans .. 120 / 80
Broccoli .. 90 / 60
Cabbage .. 80 / 50
Carrot (yellow) .. 90 / 60
Cauliflower (yellow) .. 200 / 150
Cauliflower (white) .. 200 / 150
Cucumbers .. 160 / 100
Eggplant (small) .. 120 / 80
Eggplant (large) .. 100 / 70
Garlic (dry) .. 600 / 500
Grapefruit .. 130 / 100

GENERAL

Jordan Television .. 7731119
Radio Jordan .. 7741119
Ministry of Tourism .. 642311
Hotel complaints .. 666612
Price complaints .. 661176
Telephone information .. 12
Jordan and Middle East calls .. 19
Overseas calls .. 661912
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MARKET PRICES

Prince Hassan inaugurates 150-bed hospital in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday inaugurated Al Nadin private hospital in Madaba which cost JD 2.5 million. Prince Hassan made a brief speech on the occasion reiterating His Majesty King Hussein's belief in the individual as the most precious possession of society and he praised the people of Madaba who undertook this vital project to ensure medical services for the city and its neighbouring regions. Building hospitals, schools and other social services is one of the most important elements in the contribution towards a developed society, Prince Hassan said. The Crown Prince also referred

to the Health Ministry's scheme to establish integrated health centres around the Kingdom, describing it as a means for providing primary care for all residents. Later, Prince Hassan toured the hospital and was briefed on the services it will offer to Madaba residents.

The ceremony was attended by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaideh, the Madaba district governor and other officials. The 150-bed hospital has three operating rooms and four outpatient clinics as well as a laboratory, an X-ray unit and other facilities — all built on a 14 dunum plot of land.

Queen Noor calls for appropriate strategies to deal with drug abuse

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday afternoon chaired a meeting to assess the results and recommendations of two symposia which were held recently to explore preventive measures against drug abuse and international trafficking, according to a press release.

The meeting, which was held at the Sports City, was attended by the ministers of justice and health, the director of public security, senior officials, as well as the sponsors of the two symposia held in Amman during February and March of this year.

The participants reviewed the legal, health and social aspects of drug abuse. While drug abuse in Jordan is minimal, the country's strategic geographic location and role as a regional transit point has made it increasingly susceptible to international drug traffickers. In view of this reality, the participants stressed the importance of combating the drug abuse menace through wide-spread public awareness and strict frontier security and law enforcement, the release added.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday chairs a meeting at Sports City to assess the results and recommendations of two symposia on drug abuse and trafficking (Petra photo).

These symposia were held in conjunction with Queen Noor's efforts and the efforts of other first ladies to combat the international spread of drugs.

Her Majesty stressed the importance of following up on the issue by holding similar sessions to identify priorities and prepare appropriate strategies. Her Majesty requested the participants to prepare two working papers; one on the role of the media and the other on the role of schools and educational institutions in heightening public awareness. Her Majesty emphasised the importance of integrating the work of all sectors, especially that of women's groups, with the work of official organisations to achieve tangible results in Jordan and the area.

Jordan celebrates Israa wal Mi'raj today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with Arab and Islamic countries today celebrates Al Israa wal Mi'raj (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven).

Religious ceremonies will be held on the occasion at mosques throughout the Kingdom and preachers will be expounding the meaning of Al Israa and the religious importance of Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque during their sermons. The main celebration will be held at a mosque in Independence Street this afternoon under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. A number

of senior officials and key public figures will address the worshippers at the mosque.

On the eve of the holy occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs issued a statement urging all Muslims to shoulder their duty, to unify their ranks and to mobilise their efforts for regaining their usurped holy shrines in occupied Palestine in general and Al Aqsa Mosque in particular.

Public holiday

On the occasion, all government departments and public institutions will be closed in the Kingdom on Thursday. Also, all liquor stores, bars and nightclubs will not open from Wednesday evening until Saturday morning, March 28.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Week's road accidents claim 10 lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Ten people were killed and 148 others were injured in road accidents which occurred in the Kingdom in the past week, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department. The bulletin said that the total number of accidents was 284, five per cent less than the number which occurred in the previous week.

Paediatrics seminar slated for April 2

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Paediatric Society (JPS) will hold an international paediatrics symposium at the Marriott Hotel in Amman between April 2 and 3 under the patronage of Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh. The symposium which will be under the theme recent advances in paediatrics will be attended by specialists from Jordan and other Arab and foreign countries who will tackle a host of issues related to children and their diseases.

No visas for Pharaoh Island

AQABA (Petra) — The Egyptian authorities are allowing Jordanian citizens to visit the Egyptian Island of Pharaoh, which is close to the port city of Aqaba, without a visa. The move was taken to encourage tourism to the island, according to Mr. Ahmad Ragheb, Egypt's consul general here. He said that Jordanians wishing to visit the island should call at the consulate in Aqaba and produce valid passports so that they can obtain permits for the visit which can take place only between nine in the morning and five in the evening. According to Mr. Ragheb, the trip by boat from Aqaba to Pharaoh island takes no more than 40 minutes.

JNRCS to study plans for new centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) executive committee on Wednesday formed a special committee to prepare a study on "design and drawings for a project to set up a centre for Arab Red Crescent societies in Amman. The 18th conference of the Arab Red Crescent societies held recently in Qatar decided to set up this centre in Amman.

Haj Hassan graduates kindergarten nurses

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan on Wednesday attended a ceremony at the headquarters of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Amman for the graduation of 45 kindergarten nurses.

The participants, from Amman, Balqa and Zarqa Governorates, took a week-long training on services for children at the kindergarten level, providing reading material for children and offering nursing and first aid services.

GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib made a speech on the occasion paying tribute to the Ministry of Social Development for its backing to voluntary and charitable work in the Kingdom.

Dr. Nafiseh Qatameh, who supervises kindergarten courses for GUVS, also spoke at the ceremony outlining the objectives of these courses.

The minister later distributed diplomas to the graduates in the presence of Mr. Mohammad Ali Wadwan, under secretary of the Ministry of Social Development.

Housing Corporation plans to build estate in Zarqa

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation will shortly announce plans to build 500 housing units in Zarqa and it has already introduced a savings scheme for employees in the Zarqa region to help them own homes in the projected estate. Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaideh announced here Wednesday.

Mr. Zawaideh was speaking at the drawing ceremony for the distribution of housing units at the Abu Nuseir housing estate to beneficiaries, all government employees. A total of 265 employees participated in the lot-drawing which determined their future homes. Mr. Zawaideh said that the corporation will later announce the names of other employees who will benefit from the new units at Abu Nuseir.

At the meeting, Mr. Zawaideh said that all basic services have now been supplied to the Abu Nuseir estate, and that a committee from his department is now supervising these services until a municipality has been set up. The Abu Nuseir housing estate will be included in the Greater Amman Municipality, Mr. Zawaideh announced.

On Feb. 15, the government revised the prices of housing units at the Abu Nuseir housing estate and decided on a number of measures to make it easier for beneficiaries to pay their instalments.

These beneficiaries will be required to pay only the cost of the units spread over 30 instead of 25 years at an annual interest rate of 5.5 per cent, and will not be asked to pay for the cost of additional services such as central heating and sewerage as had been earlier announced by the Housing Corporation. Beneficiaries will not be required to pay 10 per cent of the units' cost in advance unless they wish to do so and those deposits already paid will be considered as part of the instalments on the housing units.

Mr. Zawaideh said that the corporation has built six schools and laid electricity cables and water, telephone and transport networks within the housing estate.

Only half of the land allocated for the housing estate has been used for the construction of the 3,500 housing units, and the vacant units were earlier reported to be for sale to the public, and the land to be sold to expatriates for building their own homes.

Participants in free-zones seminar visit Jordan Valley

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a three-day seminar on Arab free zones on Wednesday visited the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan and were briefed on travel procedures to and from the occupied West Bank. They also toured the new facilities at South Shuneh for incoming and outgoing visitors and inspected the services offered to travellers. Later, the Arab delegates visited the Karamah battle site and a monument set up in commemoration of those who fell in defence of the country during a 1968 Israeli attack.

Those participating in the seminar, which opened here on Monday, represent Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, and Morocco, as well as the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Industry, agriculture and Trade.

Following their visit to the Jordan Valley region, the participants toured the industrial city of Sahab near Amman. They heard a briefing by Dr. Fayez Subeimat, director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation, on the development of the city and the incentives offered to investors to launch industrial projects.

The working papers will highlight the latest advances and developments in biological psychiatry, child psychiatry, drug dependence and psychotherapy. Other lectures will shed light on cross-cultural psychiatry as presented in papers from different countries.

The last congress on psychiatry was held in Cairo in 1979 but for political reasons, resulting from the signing by Egypt of the Camp David treaty with Israel, the third congress was delayed. Egyptian psychiatrists will attend the third congress as Cairo's membership in the Arab Federation of Psychiatrists has been restored. Libya may not send any representatives to attend the event, making it the only Arab country not to take part in the congress, said Dr. Farek.

The JAP, affiliated to the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) groups 22 registered Jordanian psychiatrists working either with private sector institutions, on the government payroll or independently. The working psychiatrists in Jordan, according to Dr. Farek, are still well short of the country's needs. JAP is still receiving registration applications from educationalists and physicians who are interested in attending the congress which will be held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

Amman to host pan-Arab congress on psychiatry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Approximately 200 psychiatrists, educationalists and physicians are expected to take part in the third pan-Arab congress on psychiatry, scheduled to convene in Amman on April 16.

A total of 100 working papers on various psychiatric fields will be delivered during the three-day congress which is organised by the Jordan Association of Psychiatrists (JAP) in cooperation with the World Psychiatric Association (WPA).

According to the congress secretary Mohammad Farek, prominent psychiatrists from Arab and foreign countries will contribute to the event's scientific programme by introducing the latest advances in psychiatry. The congress has invited representatives from Brazil, the United States, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium. Dr. Farek told the Jordan Times, East Germany, Spain, Italy, Pakistan, Malaysia, Brunei, the People's Republic of China and Australia will also send representatives to attend the biennial event, he said.

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Rome project brings a message to Jordan about urban rescue, renewal

By Meg Abu Hamdan Special to the Jordan Times

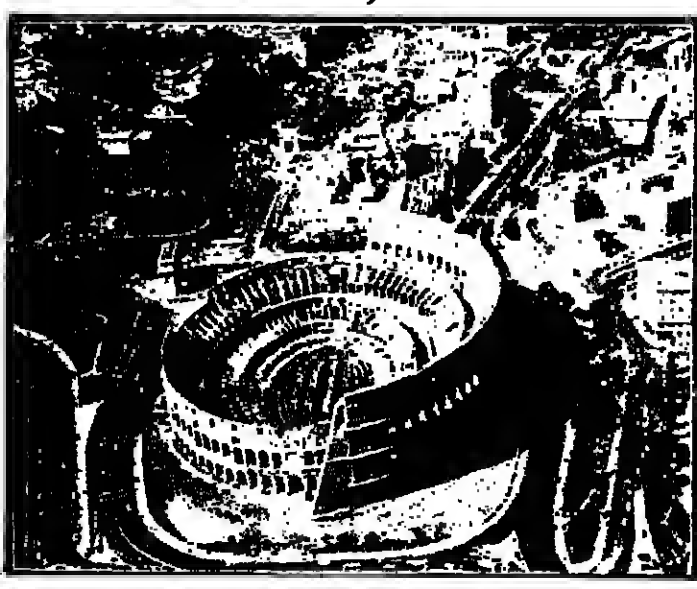
AMMAN — Rome over the last two centuries has been fighting to save its past from the encroachments of modern life. Documenting both the city's incredibly rich heritage and the techniques employed to preserve it is an exhibition currently on show at the Royal Cultural Centre entitled "Planning the Past, The Rome Project." Brought to Amman by the Italian Embassy and the Italian Archaeological Mission in Jerash, this large and comprehensive exhibition, thick with coloured and black and white photographs, drawings, plans, elevations and panels of written explanation (in English), was deemed particularly relevant for Jordan.

As Giorgio Gullini says in the foreword of the handsome accompanying catalogue: "No other country can understand all this better and appreciate it more than Jordan, with its exceptionally dense and interesting cultural heritage." Mr. Gullini, the author of "The Urbanistic History of Ancient Rome" which forms the main part of both catalogue and exhibition, goes on to say that the "Rome Project" has been one of the most important scientific and operative commitments of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Environment in Italy of the last five years.

Historical introduction

The first part of the exhibition sketches the lines of urban development of the city of Rome in ancient times, from the legendary foundation by King Romulus through the expansion in the Republican era to the big building projects of the Emperors.

After this historical introduction, the exhibition illustrates the main phases of the modern rediscovery of the archaeological inheritance of the city. This started at the beginning of the 19th century when it was attempted to enclose the monumental complexes in the context of the living city. During the second half of the century it was thought that the archaeological complexes should be separated from the city, a concept that saved many monuments but led to their isolation. Meanwhile, as the city



Old and new in Rome — city planners use the past to improve today's quality of life.

quickly expanded as the capital of the newly established kingdom of Italy several monuments were destroyed.

The final part of the exhibition is devoted to the main projects being carried out by the Italian State Archaeological Superintendent and by the Municipality of Rome to combat the current problems of traffic and pollution. This section describes some of the greatest experiences of urban archaeology, both those that have been accomplished in recent years and those that are still only planned, as for example the excavation of the Imperial Forum.

In-depth study

It is a highly complex and in-depth study and one that will

most benefit professionals in the architectural, planning and archaeological fields. The exhibition's message to everyone, however, is that the problem of rescue and recovery of urban archaeological areas must be tackled with a new way of planning, and that a renewal of interest in the past is a great opportunity to improve the quality of life of today. The message to Jordan in particular is that many of the difficulties experienced by the Municipality of Rome are common to those of Amman and Jerash, where the modern part of the city must be harmonised with the ancient one.

The exhibition runs until March 29, when it will then transfer to Yarmouk University, Irbid, from April 1-6.

Air pollution — RSS takes steps to deal with a potential problem

By Fred Donovan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's rapid economic development and rising standard of living in the past decades have brought with them the attendant problem of pollution with which the developed world is all too familiar. Though water pollution from industrial waste has received much attention, the pollution of the air from auto and industrial emissions has not, until recently, been studied.

"There is a danger of an air pollution episode in Amman," warns Mr. Ayman Al Hassan, director of the air pollution division at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). This danger, while still only a potential one, needs to be addressed, says Mr. Al Hassan.

Citing an air pollution episode in Athens in which 200 people were injured, Mr. Al Hassan cautions about the similar topography of Amman. Like Athens, Amman is built among hills. "This restricts natural ventilation," he states.

The significant increase in the number of cars, combined with the lack of effective emission controls and the narrowness of the streets between the hills, threatens to create problems. According to Mr. Al Hassan, 80 per cent of the small and medium cars in Jordan are located in the Amman area. Many of these use diesel oil which emits sulphur dioxide which when burned can cause permanent damage to the respiratory system. The levels emitted by these diesel burning cars are estimates to be three times the international limit.

Monitoring units

The RSS, in cooperation with the Canadian-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Environment Canada, has begun monitoring the level of pollutants in the air. IDRC is providing the financial assistance, and Environment Canada the equipment and technical assistance.

Through this Jordanian-Canadian cooperation, four fixed and one mobile monitoring systems became operational in February of last year. The four fixed systems are located in the Amman area — downtown, Marka, Jabal Al Nasr, and at the RSS head-



Narrow, busy streets in downtown Amman, nestled at the foot of the capital's hills, act as trap for pollution and restrict natural ventilation (J.T. file photo).

quarters near the University of Jordan. They are measuring the levels of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and dust. Because the monitoring has not been going on long enough, the RSS as yet does not have any firm figures, according to Mr. Al Hassan, who is the project's director.

Once the study has been completed and some firm results arrived at, he suggests that the data be used to set up national standards. "We decided to start early to be able to set up national standards before the problem gets out of hand," he says.

In full agreement with the need for national standards is Dr. Suifan Al Tel, director of the Department of Environment and the Department of Regional Planning. He concurs that standards should be established to regulate industrial and auto emissions. "We need the data before we can draw up specifications. They are the easy part," he says.

His department is looking to acquire instruments or to pay the RSS to conduct studies of air pollution levels. Unfortunately, the government did not allocate money for such a study in its five-year development plan,

although it did endorse the idea, relates Dr. Tel.

Asphalt factories relocated

Though his department has not conducted a study of the level of pollutants in the air, it has already taken steps to curb air pollution, according to Dr. Al Tel. One example is the department's action against the asphalt mixing factories. Many of these factories, located to the west of Amman, were spewing dust and pollutants into the air, and the predominantly west-to-east winds were carrying this into Amman.

Through a licensing system, the department succeeded in having the factories moved to the east of Amman, so that the winds took the dust into the desert. Also the factories were required to install filters, relates Dr. Tel. "I regard this as a good step for the environment in Amman," he asserts.

Another area where the Department of Environment has succeeded in lessening air pollution is at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) plant in Ruseifa. According to an article in the Jordan Times in February 1985, the residents of Ruseifa

were complaining about the dust pollution caused by the plant. As a result of the construction of open cast mines built by the JPMC in the 1960s, phosphate dust was being blown in the air in amounts potentially dangerous to the health.

According to one resident, Mr. Sim'an Qa'war, the dust was so bad that "if you pass through the city during the night you feel as if you are going through a tunnel full of thick dust where you can hardly see anything."

The Department of Environment succeeded in having the Ruseifa mine closed, according to Dr. Tel. The problem came to his attention while he was serving on a University of Jordan committee to review Masters theses.

Phosphate dust

One of the students wrote his Masters thesis on the problem of air pollution in Ruseifa and the potential dangers. As a result of the information, Dr. Tel moved to have the plant shut down because of the difficulty of reducing the dust from the plant to acceptable levels.

"But, we don't like this solution (closing down factories)," he states. "We find that most factory

owners are willing to cooperate with us. The response from them is usually good," he concludes.

On the problem of auto emission control, Dr. Tel judges that more needs to be done. "We need to have emission control requirements be part of getting a license. The emission controls we have are not being implemented as we would like," he asserts. He suggests that cars be tested once a year and that mobile measuring instruments be used to check cars in the street.

Acid rain

An attendant problem of air pollution is acid rain. When gases, such as carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide, come into contact with moisture, they form acids, which precipitation carries down to the ground; these acids can damage buildings and kill plant life, explains Dr. Elias Salameh of the Water Research and Study Centre at the University of Jordan. The acids can find their way into the food chain through animals grazing the contaminated grass.

His centre has conducted studies on acid levels in rain water. From his study, he has found that the level of acidity is not a problem for Jordan. "We have a lot of dust in the air which absorbs the acidity... very seldom do we have acid rain," he explains.

Lead emissions

There is a problem, however, with lead emissions from cars, according to Dr. Salameh. Most of the automobiles in Jordan still use leaded fuel. Lead, which is poisonous in sufficient amounts, is emitted into the air by cars burning leaded fuel. His Centre, after taking samples of rain water from the streets in Amman, found significant levels of lead. This is a problem which Dr. Salameh thinks needs attention.

Thus, air pollution remains a potential problem for Jordan as the country continues to grow economically. Fortunately, it is a problem which is gradually coming under increased study. If national standards are set up and enforced both for factories and automobiles, Jordan could lessen the health problems that air pollution is causing in more industrialised countries.

GET INTO MANAGEMENT

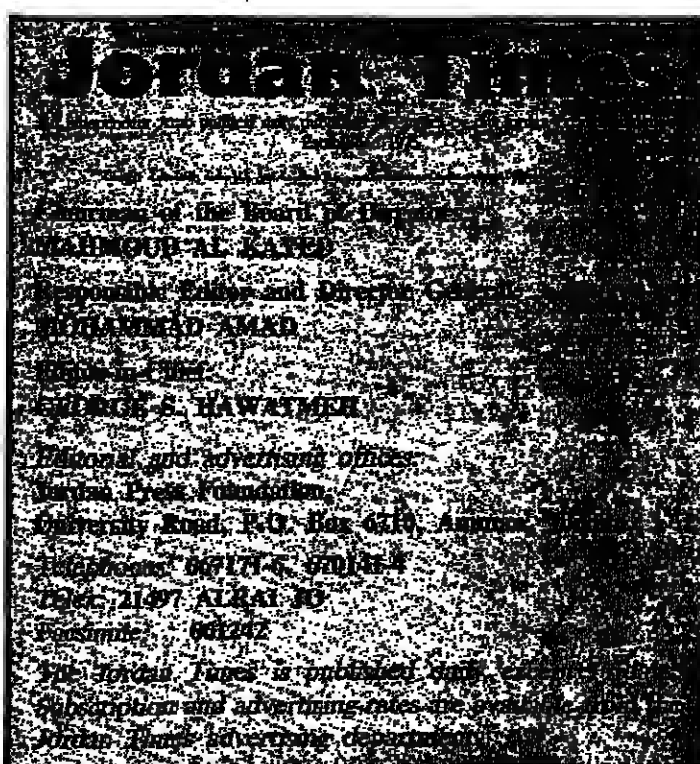
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The significance of Pollard

RECENT events in the U.S. and Israel have brought into focus two important questions concerning the relationship between these two countries. The first concerns the very nature of that relationship which both sides consider to be "special." It is a relationship which has become more and more special since the present U.S. administration took office in 1981. Its "specialness" can be defined on two levels: on an official level whereby Israel is the recipient of ever increasing amounts of American tax-payers' money, is blessed with the continuous delivery of the latest military hardware, has almost unlimited access to U.S. markets for its exports, and is accorded the general status of a major strategic partner of the United States. In short, it has come to assume, particularly over the past decade, an entitlement, as of right, to whatever it chooses to ask of Washington.

There is a second, unofficial level, whereby Israel does what it wants, without asking, and the U.S. government simply turns a blind eye, even when U.S. interests or the interests of its allies are damaged. Such Israeli deeds as the theft of electronic technology from U.S. companies; the breach of U.S. arms embargoes against Somalia's Nicaragua, Guatemala, the Congo, Iran, and South Africa; the sale of electronic and nuclear technology to China, again in defiance of a U.S. embargo; the enticement of profitable individuals in the National Security Council into selling arms to the U.S.'s stated enemy, Iran, for the benefit of Israel, rather than the U.S., thereby jeopardizing the future of the administration itself; and finally the procurement of classified U.S. intelligence data harmful to the interests of the Arab states, either through the connivance of high government officials in Washington, as is known to have occurred on at least one earlier occasion, or by the planting of a spy in U.S. naval intelligence.

Did anybody in Washington know about Jonathan Jay Pollard? In terms of U.S.-Israeli relations it perhaps does not matter; the truth is known and the culprit, significantly, punished. The significance lies in the fact that many, both in the United States and Israel are clearly shocked by the severity of Pollard's sentence. It is the first sign of the U.S. being prepared to say "no" to Israel for many years. But in spite of this, and in spite of Israel's astonishing, even by its own standards, lack of sensitivity over this issue, there is no reason to believe the "special relationship" will suffer any long term damage.

The second question at issue is one of loyalty. In the contemporary world it is taken for granted that almost everybody has spies almost everywhere. Nations must suspect even their allies. But Pollard was a spy for ideological reasons; a Jew, a committed Zionist, from the U.S. community which is clearly the base of the staunchest and most reliable support for the special relationship with Israel. The Jewish community in the U.S. is large and influential, its leaders wealthy and successful people who give the American Jews a voice in public affairs out of proportion to the size of the community. It is the American Jews who have the most to lose out of the Pollard case. Their expressions of outrage at the Israeli government are clearly genuine and deeply felt. After all, the U.S. is as central to Jewish cultural and political life as the Jews are a vital facet of the U.S.'s heterogeneous make-up. Furthermore, there can surely be no single group of people so important to Israel. Yet it is just this community which the Israelis have alienated and outraged, and whose loyalty and allegiance to the state Israel has caused to be brought into question by the recruitment of Pollard, the details of any government involvement in his activities, the promotion of the heads of the Leken agency who recruited him and paid his wages, and the refusal to cooperate to more than a token degree in unravelling the affair.

In Israel itself, where Likem's activities and para-state role are widely known, Pollard is acclaimed as a national hero and the newspapers and politicians from left and right berate the government for not doing more to help him. Do the Israeli people share the same affection for the U.S. that so many in America show for them? The rift that has opened up between Israel and the American Jews may not yet spell danger to Israel's place at the top of the list of U.S. allies, but it might perhaps serve to open a few more eyes as to the nature of the Israeli state which occupies so dear a place in American hearts—Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Ever-improving relations

THE strong Jordanian-Soviet relations which are based on mutual respect have contributed to the development of bilateral cooperation in all fields. Those who followed up the development of relations between the two countries over the past three decades must have clearly observed the gradual improvement and the strengthening of ties between the Soviet and Jordanian people in the interest of world peace and justice and freedom. The head of a Soviet delegation from the Supreme Soviet now on a visit to Jordan has reaffirmed this fact, and noted with the deepest satisfaction the continued progress in this relationship. Moscow's attitude towards the convening of an international conference on the Middle East is a true image of the Soviet Union's support for the Arab causes, and it is by far a clear desire for an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of genuine peace in the Middle East region. This Soviet stand conforms with Jordan's position and gives further impetus for a drive to convene the proposed conference for the sake of achieving peace. Moscow's stand and Jordan's position are totally opposed by Israel and the United States which continue a drive to abort the conference and perpetuate Israeli occupation of Arab territory.

Al Dustour: Iran 'opens' Gulf for U.S.

THE United States has found in the deployment of Iran's missiles along the shores of the Strait of Hormuz a pretext for sending in its fleet to the area. We of course condemn Iran's deployment of such missiles which are considered an escalation of the Gulf struggle, but we also view the U.S. interference in the region as dangerous to the Arab countries in the region and an open blackmail against the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. By offering to give protection to oil tankers in the Gulf region, the United States is clearly fishing in troubled waters and in a turbulent region originally made dangerous by Iran's war activity and continued threats to Gulf countries and the safety of shipping. Iran has opened the way for the United States and other foreign powers to interfere, thus endangering the whole Gulf area and its future. Kuwait, which is a Gulf state, has already rejected any American intervention which, if encouraged, would lead to a widening of the circle of conflict and conflagration in the whole Arab region. We warn against giving favourable response to U.S. proposals which have far reaching objectives, and appeal to all Arab states in the Gulf to follow the example of Kuwait which displayed boldness and awareness of the consequences of American plans. We also condemn Iran's policies in the region which are aimed at widening the scope of conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: In support of peace

THE Arab inhabitants in territories under Israeli occupation have echoed a call by Jordan and the rest of the Arab nation for the convening of an international conference to solve the Middle East issue. Prominent personalities in the West Bank and mayors have voiced their views in this regard and said that the conference will be the most effective move for achieving a lasting peace. The West Bankers move came amid intensive Israeli efforts to abort the idea of the conference and in the face of Israel's drive to force direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.

America is the Jews' 'promised land'

By Jacob Neusner

The following is part one of a two-part article that appeared recently in The Washington Post. The writer, a rabbi, teaches Judaic studies at Brown University and is author of "Death and Birth of Judaism: The Impact of Christianity, Secularism and the Holocaust on Jewish Faith" and "Israel in America: A Too Comfortable Exile?" Part two of the article appears in Saturday's issue of the Jordan Times.

IT'S time to say that America is a better place to be a Jew than Israel. If ever there was a Promised Land, we Jewish Americans are living in it. Here Jews have flourished, not alone in politics and the economy, but in matters of art, culture and learning. Jews feel safe and secure here in ways that they do not and cannot in the State of Israel. And they have found an authentically Jewish voice — their own voice — for their vision of themselves.

That is not to say the long centuries of wandering have ended. God alone knows the future. But for here, now and for whatever future anyone can foresee, America has turned out to be our Promised Land.

And that creates a problem because American Jews — now, really, having become Jewish Americans — are supposed to feel a bit guilty about living here. They're expected to fear for their future and take for granted that a full Jewish life is to be lived only in Jerusalem — that is, in the State of Israel.

Some Israelis tell American Jews that America, like the flesh pots of Egypt, is no place for a

Jew — we're all going to die in gas chambers, singing Christmas carols. The message is that we are not supposed to feel secure because anti-Semitism will catch up to us, as it has to Jews everywhere else throughout history.

Meanwhile, the story goes, we're all "assimilating," we've stopped being Jewish. Nearly 6 million Jews today (they tell us) are all marrying gentiles and jumping off the sinking ship of Judaism. I, for one, haven't yet felt the nudge of the iceberg, and I don't think I'm singing on the deck of the Titanic. Jewish life in America that can last, and that even now is giving plenty of proof of stability and human value.

The truth is that Jews can make it in freedom. America, the freest and most open society Jews have ever known, is not only good for the Jews but better, for the Jews than the State of Israel — and not because we prefer the fleshpots or even like singing "Silent Night."

First, are we assimilating? I think not. We're changing. But change is not assimilation, it's change. We're different from our grandparents. Our children will

be different from us. But the emblems are multiplying of a highly cohesive Jewish community, with traits that mark us as distinctive.

Fifteen years ago Jewish sociologists who studied the question announced that Jews were disappearing because they weren't having enough children. This prophecy has been made by each generation of Jews since our patriarch, Abraham — 3,500 years ago. Failing to foresee the birth of Isaac, Abraham thought that Eliezer of Damascus, who wasn't Jewish, would be his heir. When the sociologists told us we were on our way out, the Israelis argued that if we wanted a Jewish future, we had to emigrate.

But it turns out that the disappearing American Jew is going to be around for a while because the sociologists got their numbers wrong. Inter-marriage, so it seems at the moment, is a demographic plus not a minus. The reason, surveys show, is that the non-Jewish partner often either converts or identifies with the Jewish community and at least half of the children do.

Second, are the "goyim" out to get us? There is anti-Semitism, among other hatreds, in this country. But every public opinion poll confirms the impression given by noting that no fewer than seven United States senators — 7 per cent of the Senate from

only 2 per cent of the population — are Jewish; countless other Jewish public officials of both major parties serve in high office in state and local government. Jews are an accepted group, flowing in the mainstream of American life.

A good measure of anti-Semitism takes the temperature of the community from within. There we see collective affirmation of Jewish existence. Synagogues and all sorts of Jewish organisations and institutions thrive. Jews in every walk of life, in the military, in large corporations and universities, government and public institutions — everywhere Jews make their way, facing little or no hostility.

So when Israelis tell us we have to emigrate and "make aliyah," meaning, ascent to live in the Holy Land, lest we assimilate and die (or both), they appeal to an evil nightmare, one that gives little sign of coming true.

The immigrant generations of Jews built good lives in America, and their great-grandchildren are still Jewish. True enough, they are Jewish in ways different from what their great grandparents understood. For example, they speak unaccented American, not Yiddish; they ordinarily do not observe dietary taboos, and they live pretty much within the calendar that governs everyone else.

But they also maintain the marks

of a highly distinctive community. Every social study has turned up strong evidence of Jews' communal cohesiveness.

The most perverse argument made is that Americans must settle in Israel if they want to have a Jewish future because the benign, welcoming climate here is destructive to Jewish culture. Unless we all live in little ghettos, the reasoning goes, we're going to disappear. Jews can maintain themselves only in a segregated circumstance, and so the State of Israel offers the only hope. But where does this bizarre argument come from?

When the political Zionist movement began in the 19th Century, the projected Jewish state was supposed to serve as haven for Jews who wished to go there or had no other choice. What would happen to the others was not quite clear. Some thought they should assimilate, so that pretty much all Jews would live in the Jewish state. Others projected that state as a "spiritual centre" that would serve as a light to Israel, the Jewish people, wherever they lived, and even to the nations.

Later on, with the success of the State of Israel, a new claim came forth. Only in the State of Israel can Jews live a "full Jewish life," and, still further, only in the State of Israel can Jews have a future. Jews in the Diaspora

(Israelis are too polite to call it "the Exile") will wither and fade.

What that has come to mean is simple. As an Israeli professor of political science from Tel Aviv University said to me, "If you are right, we are wrong." What he meant is that if Jews in the United States give evidence of sustaining a long future, then there is no "need" to build, or live in, the Jewish state. Consequently, anyone who maintained that Jews in other countries can succeed in maintaining their distinctive community and faith became "anti-Zionist" or even "anti-Jewish."

What I hear in the odd turning of ideology is that Jews cannot live in a free and open society, that Judaism required the ghetto, and that freedom — an absolute good for everyone else — is bad for the Jews. What a remarkable judgment upon the human meaning of Judaism!

So let's turn the matter around and ask whether Zionism has kept its promises for the Jews. Where — really — is it better to be a Jew?

Zionism promised that the Jewish state would be a spiritual centre for the Jewish people. But today, in all the Jewish world, who — as a matter of Jewish sentiment or expression — reads an Israeli book, or looks at an Israeli painting, or goes to an Israeli play, or listens to Israeli music?

China gets Macao, but Taiwan still out of reach

By Stephen Nisbet
Reuters

PEKING — While China celebrates this week's deal with Portugal to give it control of Macao in 1999, it cannot forget that a far richer territorial prize remains beyond its grasp.

President Li Xiangmin told Japanese visitors this month that Taiwan, ruled by anti-Communist Nationalists since Peking's 1949 revolution, remained "China's greatest wound."

Without Taiwan, China will start the year 2000 with its reunification dreams only partly realised, despite a decade-long "one China" campaign that has increased Taipei's diplomatic isolation even as the island has transformed itself into one of Asia's industrial powerhouses.

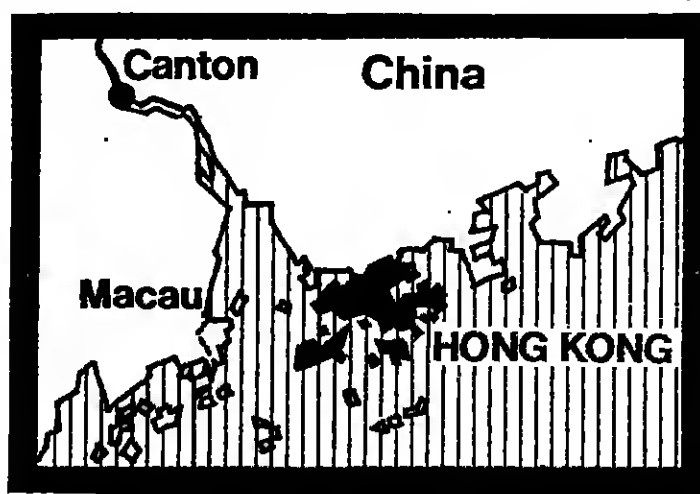
Moody's agreement to end Portuguese rule in Macao in 1999, following the ending of British rule in Hong Kong in 1997, means China will have dislodged the last of centuries of foreign rulers from its territory, but not its own capitalist cousins who govern an island less than 100 miles away.

China's Taiwan wound does not fester as it did in the 1950s when the two sides bombarded each other with artillery, the Nationalists carrying out hostilities from two island strongholds just off the southeast mainland.

Xiamen (Amoy) is the best place to go to see that the wound is well bandaged, though not healed.

At Hechu, a village near Xiamen, the old ruin of a two-storey house is a reminder of enemy shellfire in the days before China normalised relations with the United States — Taiwan's traditional military backer — in 1979.

From the roof of the fishermen's club next door, visitors can look through a telescope to the Taiwanese island of Quemoy two miles away to see the Nationalist flag, and the radio station which beams Taiwanese music across the strait with some of the world's most powerful loudspeakers.



But the Xiamen area today has more than relics, telescopes and giant posters proclaiming that all the generations of yellow emperors are looking forward to reunification.

Within range of Quemoy's guns, the Chinese have formed the Xiamen special economic zone, encouraging foreign investors to set up businesses in an area that was formerly a front-line military zone.

Such changes are a gesture of faith in the campaign of "smile diplomacy" that has evolved in recent years as China tries to lure the Taipei authorities away from their policy of "no contact" with the mainland.

Officials even speak kindly about late Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek, praising his efforts to defeat Japan in World War II and glossing over allegations that he was involved in atrocities against Communists.

Peking seeks to encourage what it calls "the three communications" with Taiwan — mail, transport and trade.

But the only contact officially sanctioned by Taipei in 38 years has been between Chinese and Taiwanese airline officials in Hong Kong last year to arrange the return of a jumbo jet flown to Canton by a defecting Taiwanese pilot.

People in Taiwan correspond with their relatives on the mainland via post office boxes in Hong Kong.

Mainland-to-Taiwan shipping routes shown on some Chinese maps do not exist.

Some Taiwanese risk fines or jail sentences at home by direct barters at sea of electrical goods for mainland silver, textiles or pharmaceutical ingredients.

Businessmen at Xiamen said bolder Taiwanese traders moored their boats in Xiamen port with number plates removed to avoid identification by Taiwan agents.

Indirect trade via Hong Kong, running almost six-to-one in Taiwan's favour, fell sharply last year to \$955 million, according to official Hong Kong figures — down 13 per cent from 1985 after China cut consumer imports to conserve scarce foreign exchange.

Shaw Yu-Ming, director of Taiwan's Institute for International Relations, said Taiwan sought to keep indirect trade to a minimum "so that we don't become an economic hostage."

Asked whether the return to China of Hong Kong and Macao in the last three years of this century would influence Taiwan, he said the island was different because its people had a choice. "Hong Kong will lose its shine."

It will not collapse suddenly, but there will be a slow and unpleasant decline — a sunset phenomenon," he said.

China has offered Taiwan the same "one country, two systems" terms as Hong Kong and Macao, so that it would be allowed to keep its capitalist economy.

However, Shaw said reunification on Peking's terms became increasingly unlikely as the gap in living standards widened between poor, populous China and Taiwan, which has the world's fourth largest foreign exchange reserves.

Shaw said he did not think recent political changes in China would have any impact on Peking's policies toward Taiwan. Chinese leaders were too bogged down in their own problems to think about Taiwan, he said.

A Western political analyst in Taipei said the forced resignation of Chinese Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang had hardened Taiwan's "no contact" policy. "It's seen as another chapter in Peking's corrupt palace politics," said the analyst.

China has not ruled out the use of force if peaceful methods fail to achieve reunification.

Asked how long Peking would be prepared to go on having its peaceful overtures ignored by Taipei, an official at one of a chain of coastal reception centres for covert Taiwanese visitors said: "Maybe until the end of this century."

But a senior foreign affairs department official at Xiamen said only Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping knew the answer.

Western diplomats said it was hard to envisage a Chinese attack against Taiwan because it would carry enormous military and diplomatic costs.

However, one said that pro-independence Taiwanese politicians, who did not share the Nationalist — and Communist — view that there was only one China, risked stepping on "the biggest corn" of the mainland dragon if they pushed their views too hard.

Mozambique's 'breadbasket' devastated by war

By Wendy Schwegmann
Reuters

QUELIMANE, Mozambique — Only the rats eat well in Quelimane, capital of the once fertile province of Zambezia in northern Mozambique.

War, hunger and desperate shortage of medicines have reduced Zambezia to a disaster area.

While Western food aid trickles through Quelimane, the main provincial port, a few miles away hundreds of emaciated refugees, their shrunken limbs poking through ragged garments, try to eke out an existence from cassava, rice and donated maize.

Once the breadbasket of Mozambique and producer of agricultural exports, Zambezia can no longer even feed itself.

Drought and typhoons have added to the devastation wreaked by the war between forces of the Marxist government and U.S.-backed guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) which has drained the country since independence from Portugal in 1975.

At least four children have died in nearby Mariébe settlement this month, residents say, and some of the 600 refugees huddled in the

shade of the crude reed huts were ill and pathetically thin.

At another camp, Nicoadala, a 25-year-old mother, Florence Joao, spooned tea and sugar through the lips of her malnourished baby. "I cannot breast-feed. There is only tea to keep my baby alive," she said.

Sacks of maize and beans — bearing the stamp "Furnished by the people of the United States of America" — were piled at Quelimane but distribution is hampered by the inefficiency of the old, ill-equipped port and an acute shortage of transport.

A ship's officer complained that much of the food was pilfered by dockers and government officials before it left the harbour. Officials said there were only two aid trucks in working order in the whole of Zambezia.

Seven new Volvo lorries donated by Canada have been parked in the port for weeks. Aid workers lamented it had taken eight months for them to reach Quelimane and now local officials were taking time to process the import papers.

Until regular aid started reaching Quelimane late last year, refugees feeling the MNR were receiving about 850 calories each day compared with the recommended minimum of 2,100.

Belliappa Kodendera, of the American aid organisation Care said.

Out in the bush, thousands more were still not being reached, cut off by the fighting, he said.

The United Nations has recently launched an emergency appeal for Mozambique where it estimates nearly four million people — a quarter of the population — are at risk from hunger. A million of those have been uprooted by the civil war.

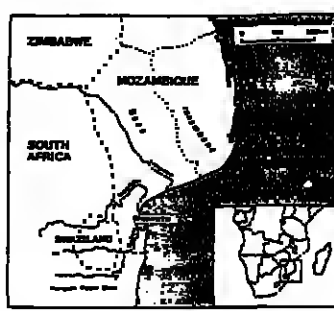
Although basic aid is reaching many people, organisers say there are desperate shortages of milk and medicine.

Medical staff at Quelimane hospital say they need eggs, meat, fish and bread. The wards are packed with malnourished children and maimed war casualties.

"This week, we have no antibiotics," said a nurse. "We have anaesthetic but no oxygen ... We can only do very urgent surgical operations."

Fat brown rats scavenged around the hospital kitchens. "Only the rats eat well," the nurse added.

Shortages are so severe that one Quelimane supermarket displayed only yellow bottles of detergent spaced out along otherwise empty shelves.



Another shop's window display consisted of seven buttons, eight tiny pots of hair oil, an old child's vest and a poster advertising last year's elections.

Opposite the crumbling former Portuguese Catholic cathedral, Soviet and Tanzanian military advisers are billeted in a hotel, one of Quelimane's few smart buildings.

Aid officials confirmed government claims that the government recently regained control of some areas of Zambezia overrun by rebels last year.

Despite the victories, refugees continue to stream to the coast from the hinterland.

The aid teams, however, reject a comparison with the Ethiopian famine. Unlike Ethiopia, the refugees in Mozambique usually survive on roots, berries, leaves and fruit scavenged as they flee, they said.

LETTERS

Give it a helping hand

To the Editor:

I was gratified, but not surprised, to learn that others share my feelings about the recent measure adopted by the government in raising the departure tax on visitors to this country.

My last letter implied that tourism in Jordan is an orphan: No spokesmen, no sponsor, no father and mother. It is a sad truth, but nonetheless a truth that we live with.

And yet, this orphan generated a surplus in excess of JD 226 million (Yes! 226,000,000 dinars) over a period of 5 years from 1981 to 1985. The pity is the slow decline in the size of the annual surplus from JD 59.3 million in 1981 to an estimated JD 37.75 million in 1985. I am not contending that these are impressive figures. Surely, when compared to the performance of other industries, these figures look puny and insignificant.

But this is a lopsided view of tourism! Despite the fact that we have a huge overcapacity of deluxe hotels, can one possibly imagine Amman without at least the Intercontinental or the Regency Palace or the Marriott?

Can anyone really say that Petra could have done without the Forum Hotel?

Despite all that is wrong with monopolies and exclusivities in any service industry, is there anyone who can say we could have done without the JETT Bus Company?

And what about Royal Jordanian? Indeed, since we do not manufacture flying machines in this country, we had to pay precious foreign exchange to buy the equipment that Royal Jordanian fly. But who will stand up and say we could have done it without the 727's, 707's, Airbus or whatever? Can anyone possibly measure or quantify the effect the airline had on the superb image that this country enjoys all over the world?

My point is that despite the drain that tourism has caused on the resources of the country by having to import most of the material that has gone in building the infrastructure; despite the fact that Jordanians have spent more on their foreign travel in recent years; despite the very sensitive nature of this industry, affected as it is by every minor political storm within a 3,000 mile radius (absurd but very true); despite the lack of any coordinated masterplan for tourism development over the last 10 years; Jordan, like every other country in the world, must invest in an infrastructure of services like hotels, airlines, buses, restaurants, taxis etc. regardless of their effect on tourism.

I invite you to take a closer look at some figures published by the Central Bank:

(Figures in millions)	1981	1982	1983	1984*	1985*
Travel Receipts:	180.84	183.48	183.05	173.22	204.17
Travel Payments:	121.55	131.28	132.43	146.45	166.42
Surplus:	59.29	52.20	50.62	26.77	37.75

* estimate
The travel payments figures include money transferred abroad for the purpose of studies. In fact, the Central Bank estimates that the Jordanians have spent the following on "tourism and medical care":

(In millions)	1981	1982	1983	1984*	1985*
	68.97	53.96	52.16	69.13	89.10

* estimate
If anything, these figures emphasise the real contribution of this industry to the overall economy. However, from a purely fiscal point of view, the tremendous increase in the total spent by Jordanians during the last two years is not a healthy sign. Domestic tourism must be built into a viable alternative. Surely, these figures indicate that an investment in additional facilities that will appeal to the Jordanians to stay home is called for. Look at all the money we can save!

The total surplus comes out to JD 226.63 million. At today's rate of exchange, this amount is equal to \$666.5 million.

In September 1982, the Ministry of Tourism estimated a total investment of \$432.4 million in the tourism sector (hotels, car rental companies, travel agencies, souvenir shops, etc.). The ministry estimated that projects under way, and planned, at that time came up to an additional \$154.06. Assuming these projects have been executed by now, Jordan could have a whopping \$600 million invested in tourism.

I do not profess any knowledge of economics, but comparing this investment to the annual surplus figures above seems to indicate that the country has had an equitable return on its money!

All this is a very simplistic view of the economies of Jordanian tourism. But whether you like it or not, tourism in this country is here to stay and grow. I call on all of you to give it a helping hand.

Minir Y Nassar
Amman

English language teaching in Jordan: The teacher

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubah

THE success or failure of English teaching at our schools depends to a great extent on the instructor. The teacher of English has indeed a special role to play, at once somewhat different and more demanding than that of his other peers. Foreign language learning, significantly more so than in any other subject, is firmly tied to the teacher's temperament, competence, and commitment. The last two are absolutely crucial.

A student who does not receive adequate attention from his English teacher finds himself greatly isolated. He may be able to find, in his family or neighbourhood, someone who can assist him with his Arabic, history, and even math lessons. But he rarely can, especially in lesser privileged areas, find someone who can help him with English. More important, the majority of our public school students suffers from what might be termed an "English complex". Many, experiencing early on something like a phobia, have even given up trying to learn. These clearly need an expert as well as a devoted teacher to lead them out of the abyss.

Most of our English teachers, unfortunately, do not live up to our expectations. Many of them, first, do not know the subject they are supposed to be experts in. This is a serious matter indeed. I have had, for three years, constant contact with a wide-range of English teachers, many of whom enroll as evening students at Yarmouk University. The revelations are stunning. Some have been teaching

English for five, ten, or fifteen years, and their English (without exaggeration) is like my Chinese (non-existent). With the exception of a few outstanding individuals, most can neither speak, write, read, nor understand the language.

This phenomenon is not surprising: Most such instructors have not had solid training in their "specialty." They are either Tawjihi graduates, whose English is the little they have gathered over the years, or community college graduates, where the English programme is simply no good. Some, a significant "some," have never even studied the language seriously. These are history, physical education, Arabic, etc., teachers who were asked to teach the subject at one point, because of the shortage in English teachers, and continued to do so ever since.

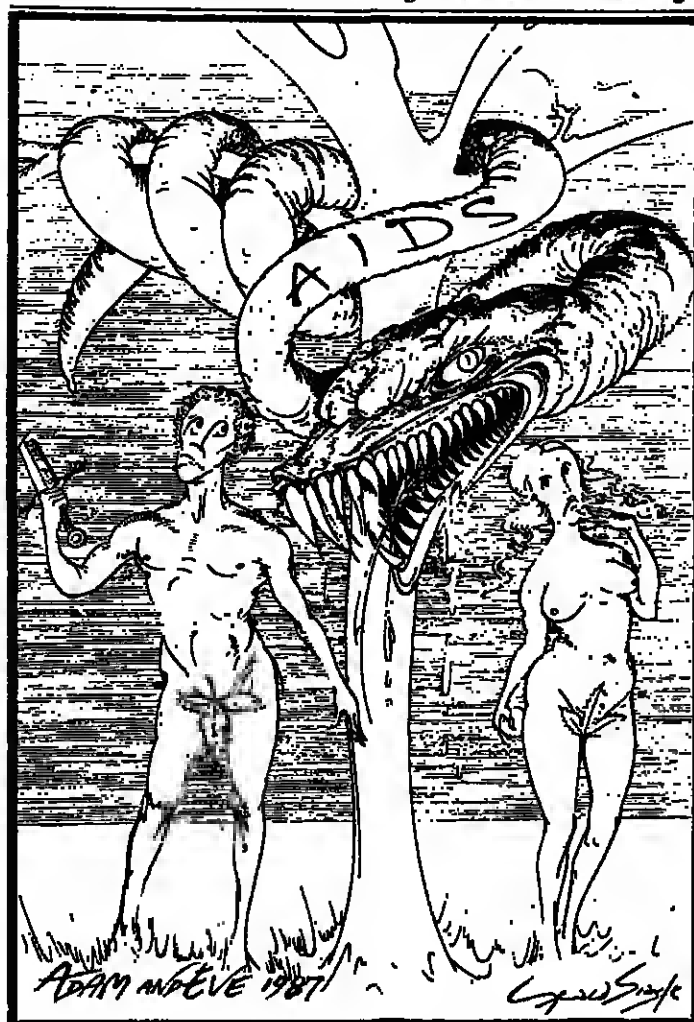
There is, secondly, a more general aspect to the English teaching crisis. Our English teachers, like the rest of their colleagues, generally lack a sense of commitment to their calling. Some do not like the profession and are in it because there is nothing better to do; some feel that other fellow teachers are not doing their job properly, and thus why should they; others have good intentions but do not know how to contribute positively; while others (and this is perhaps the most wide-spread) simply have no time. Many are working as shop owners, electricians, contractors, athletes, taxi-

drivers, singers, actors, and peddlers.

The solution, as I see it, is bipartite. First, serious attention should be paid to the teachers' unsatisfactory command of the language. The Ministry of Education ought to hold extensive training courses whose aim is to upgrade the teachers' level of competence. Such seminars could be held in either nearby, convenient places during the regular academic year or at our three universities, during the long summer vacation.

Secondly, the Ministry needs to address the teachers' overall situation. The causes of the decline of the profession, and it has declined rather drastically over the past decade, must be determined and eliminated. Such causes are partly financial no doubt, but they are also, in my opinion, psychological and administrative. We do indeed want our teachers to take pride in their calling and to give not the bare minimum, as they presently do, but very generously.

I do not mean to underrate the contribution of those few teachers who, like unknown soldiers, have been working silently, ably, diligently, and faithfully. As a matter of fact, the little, but heartening, success there is in our education today is due to their efforts. Yet these teachers are a minority, and the larger picture does not look good.



AIDS patients may face huge costs for new drug treatment

By David Brough
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Many American AIDS patients fear a painful choice between economic ruin and premature death due to the astronomical cost of a new drug called AZT which could prolong their lives, say officials who work with them.

The estimated cost of thousands of dollars for a year's treatment of the newly-approved drug may bar its use by those without private health insurance who do not meet the poverty levels required to qualify for the federally-funded Medicaid health insurance programme.

About 30,000 cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) have been diagnosed in the United States.

The fatal disease, for which there is no known cure, kills by breaking down the immune system, leaving the body vulnerable to a host of other illnesses. It is spread through the exchange of body fluids during sexual activity, as well as by the use of contaminated blood products and intravenous needles.

AZT, or Azidothymidine, was the first drug approved by the government for treatment of AIDS patients in the United States.

Developed by North Carolina-based Burroughs Wellcome Co., the U.S. arm of Britain's Wellcome PLC, it has also been approved for marketing in Britain and France.

Kathy Bartlett, a Burroughs Wellcome spokeswoman, said the company estimated that after Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval last week, AZT's retail cost will be from \$7,000 to \$10,000 for a year's treatment, depending on the dosage required and the wholesaler's profit.

The drug, to be marketed under the name Retrovir, is not a cure for the killer disease but has been shown in clinical trials to slow its progression.

"For those (AIDS patients) who can't afford it, it would be quite devastating," said Jay Van Horne, an AIDS sufferer who works for an AIDS hotline.

Tom Jefferson of Project Inform, a San Francisco-based organisation that closely follows the progress of medical treatment

for AIDS, said numerous sufferers had called expressing concern over the price of the drug including AZT.

"A lot of people are devastated and demoralised," he said. "It's a difficult situation because if a person has a year to live, they have a need for AZT treatment but they may have to pay a lot for it," said Lori Behrman of the gay men's health crisis hotline in New York.

"How can you charge more than \$10,000?" she added. "I don't have the money to pay," said Archie Harrison, an AIDS patient in New York City, who has been treated with AZT at no cost over the past six months under a special programme.

Under the programme more than 4,000 AIDS patients received the drug free of charge or at cost for taking part in clinical tests or by meeting certain criteria set by the company.

Harrison is afraid the free treatment will now end because of the FDA's approval of the drug for marketing.

Harrison said he knows other AIDS patients who are worried that they will not be able to afford AZT because they do not have a health plan and do not qualify for Medicaid.

Bartlett said AZT was expensive because of high production costs, research and development costs and a possibly limited lifespan.

"We recognise that we are faced with a very uncertain future (for the drug)," she said. "We still have a great deal to learn about the drug and the patient groups (that use it)."

Burroughs Wellcome had considered patients' needs when pricing AZT, and had kept the price lower than it would otherwise have been, she added.

AIDS patients with private health insurance plans have hope as long as their coverage includes prescription drugs.

Charlotte Crenson, a spokeswoman for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, which represents a major U.S. health insurance plan, said Blue Cross does pay for FDA-approved prescription drugs as long as an individual's contract includes specific coverage for such drugs.

"If the FDA says (AZT) is approved for accepted medical practice, we'll pay," she said.

Ruler and ruled meet in Saudi Arabia's majlis

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

RIYADH — The prince strides briskly into a large sitting room, gold-trimmed black robe flowing behind him, leading a throng of Saudi Arabian citizens.

Old and young, desert and city dwellers, bedouin and university graduates, they follow Prince Salman to his seat and form a line to greet him, bending down to kiss his right shoulder.

The majlis, centuries-old fea-

ture of bedouin political life, still thrives in modern Saudi Arabia.

In this capital city where government agencies and civil servants have proliferated, ordinary citizens can still take their grievances to the majlis, an open court held by senior male members of the royal family.

"Members of the royal family see more ordinary people than bureaucrats and ministers," one prince said. "The higher up they are, the more people they see."

As governor of Riyadh and a

brother of King Fahd, Prince Salman probably meets 300 people a day, one aide said.

Some come just to pay their respects. Some have minor problems, some have major ones.

The requests are scribbled on a paper handed to an aide before the greeting. The sick may need money for an operation, a young man may be unable to pay his wedding costs and bride price.

"It could be anything from a request to transfer a student from one school to another to a plea to

commute a death sentence," the aide said.

Those with requests form two lines on either side of the prince and wait for their names to be called out. They have a minute or two to explain their case to the prince, who refers it to an aide or the appropriate government department.

In some instances, the prince's instructions merely speed up a process that might have taken time through normal bureaucratic channels.

In other cases, he can lighten court sentences, authorise payments and arbitrate disputes. A prince's ability and willingness to do so have traditionally been a mark of his social and political stature.

The system provides a means for citizens to influence policy in what is theoretically an absolute monarchy.

Saudi officials and Western diplomats say public pressure through the majlis system was a major factor in the repeal of cuts in government wheat purchases announced in late 1985.

The cuts had prompted an outcry from farmers who depend on subsidised government purchases to market their wheat.

The officials also say "businessmen's lobby" successfully appealed for state deficit spending to keep the economy afloat at a time of recession caused by lower oil revenues.

The government plans to dip into reserve to finance a \$2.7 billion (\$14 billion) deficit in the 1987 budget.

Saudi officials say the majlis are working well enough to forestall any immediate need for a more systematic and institutional system of citizen participation in government.

King Fahd and some of the country's senior princes have publicly supported the idea of a consultative assembly or parliament that would gather representatives from around the country to discuss policy issues.

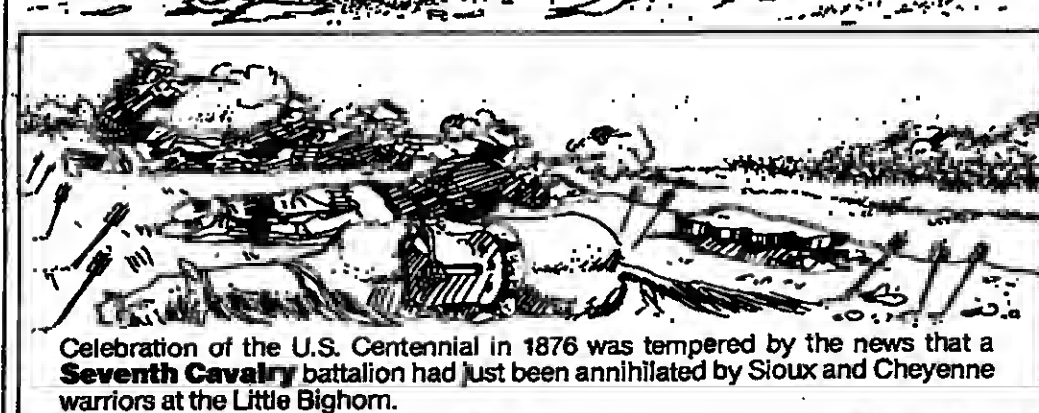
Diplomats and officials say such an assembly would help centralise the process of consultation and involve representatives of the kingdom's different provinces, some of which lie more than 1,000 kilometres from Riyadh.

Appointed parliaments with a consultative role already exist in neighbouring Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Kuwait had an elected parliament until the emir dissolved it last year, citing national security and economic crises.

King Fahd commissioned a hall for a consultative assembly as part of a new government complex in Riyadh this month.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC

Although most accounts of the sinking of the **Titanic** attribute the disaster to a 300-foot-long gash ripped into the liner's starboard bow by an iceberg, divers who recently inspected the hulk saw no gash.

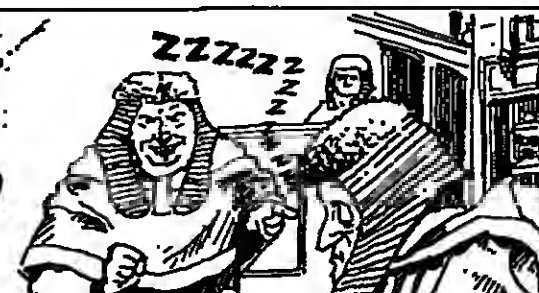


Celebration of the U.S. Centennial in 1876 was tempered by the news that a **Seventh Cavalry** battalion had just been annihilated by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors at the Little Bighorn.



A comet colliding with the earth could cause a mass extinction similar to the one that erased the **dinosaurs** and most other species on earth about 65 million years ago.

Drawings by Stokes Walesty
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When an opponent who had been making a boring speech in the British Parliament accused **Lord North** of being asleep, North retorted, "I wish to God I was."

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Sweden's Wilander begins defence of Belgian title

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Sweden's Mats Wilander began defence of his title in the \$315,000 Belgian Indoor Tennis Championships by defeating young Eduardo Masso of Argentina 7-5, 6-2.

Wilander is seeded second in the 32-player field behind two-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany. Becker and the no. 3 seed, American John McEnroe, are scheduled to play their first round matches.

In the biggest upset of the indoor tournament so far, Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden ousted fourth-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain, who is ranked 16th in the world, 6-1, 7-6.

Wilander started slowly as Masso, repeating going to the

net, broke his highly ranked opponent in the seventh game of the opening set and then held to take a 5-3 lead. The Swede, who cautiously stayed on the baseline, then ripped through the next four games, breaking Masso in the 10th game and 12th games to take the set.

The Argentine attacked again in the second set and held to 2-2, alternating baseline rallies with net play and drop shots. But he started to tire.

Wilander then took the next four games to close out the match in 76 minutes.

Another Swede, seventh-seeded Anders Jarryd, won his first-round match by dominating Libor Pimek of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-3.

Juventus president to take two-player limit to court

ROME (R) — Juventus President Giampiero Boniperti has decided to contest in the European high court an Italian Soccer Federation limit on the number of foreign players allowed per team, Italian newspaper said.

A Juventus spokesman told Reuters he was not authorised to speak about the decision. Boniperti was not available for comment.

Juventus said two weeks ago, when the federation announced it was keeping the two-player limit for next season, that it was considering legal action under European Community (EC) regulations governing the free movement of workers between member states.

The Gazzetta dello Sport said Tuesday Juventus lawyers had advised Boniperti to sign a contract with a third foreign player for next season.

Juventus, the reigning champion, already has Dane Michael Laudrup and Frenchman Michel Platini. But Platini is due to make way for Welsh striker Ian Rush who has been signed for \$4.6 million from Liverpool.

The club would then ask the soccer federation to approve the third contract and, faced with its refusal in line with the two-player restriction, would ask the European high court to intervene, the newspaper said.

Italy's borders, closed to new soccer imports since 1984 to allow the national side an undisturbed run-up to last year's World Cup, are reopening again at the end of the present season.

But federation special commissioner Franco Carraro decided that the two-player limit would stay after lobbying from poorer clubs who feared that wealthy teams like Juventus would buy in all the top talent.

Prince Abdullah sees off air racers for Rome

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, manoeuvring with his military chopper, on Wednesday saw off the pilots of the Paris-Peking-Paris air race, the penultimate leg of the race. The 17 aircraft are expected to reach their final destination on Friday.

Two Royal Jordanian Air Force choppers, including that piloted by Prince Abdullah, escorted the planes as they took off from the tarmac at the Amman airport until they gained altitude and set off for their destination. The aircraft, competing to win the air race, arrived here from Bombay last Saturday as part of their 19-leg competition.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor received the crews of the aircraft on Monday and awarded the three winners, with prizes and token gifts amidst a spectacular aerobatic show staged by the pilots of the Royal Falcons.

Microjet Mammoth, piloted by Raymond Michel with co-pilot Remi Grasset, leads the race whereas Italia Wings, a Cessna 310, is second, the Manpower, another Cessna 310 captained by Delio Iglesias and Jean-Claude Lesse, ranks third.

Former boxing champion to be tried for smuggling

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Former world junior lightweight champion Samuel "Sammy" Serrano will go on trial Monday on charges of bringing millions of dollars worth of illegal drugs into Puerto Rico.

Serrano was charged in a 12-count indictment that includes 30 other persons allegedly connected with drug trafficking gang.



DIVING SAVE: Jordan's Khalid Awad drives a blistering shot on net which the Cypriot national goalie dives to grab. The friendly soccer match between Jordan's and Cyprus' national teams, held at Amman Stadium on Wednesday, ended with a 2-1 victory for Jordan. The friendly is in preparation for Jordan's first round Olympic qualifier against the United Arab Emirates scheduled for April 3 at Amman Stadium (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan).

Werdel stuns Shriver in Washington women's tennis

FAIRFAX, Virginia (AP) — Marianne Werdel, spraying the ball at the corners with a barrage of consistent groundstrokes, stunned second-seeded Pam Shriver Tuesday, 7-6, 3-6, 6-6, in opening round action of the \$150,000 Washington women's tennis tournament.

Werdel, United States, fought back from a 5-4 deficit in the final set, then won the tiebreaker, 7-3. Shriver, the fifth-ranked player in the world, could not contend with the power-hitting Werdel, 19, who refused to fold when Shriver served for the match at 5-4 moments after breaking serve.

Shriver, United States, appeared in control after easily winning the second set, but Werdel never quit banging the ball and, despite her power, rarely had a mishit.

Earlier, Czechoslovakia's Hana Mandlikova, the top seed, advanced to the round of 16 with a 6-3, 6-4 triumph over qualifier Gigi Fernandez. Mandlikova, ranked no. 4 in the world, trailed 0-2 and 15-40 at the outset of the match before winning 20 of the next 23 points to take control. "Next for Mandlikova is Hong Kong's Patricia Hy, who beat Terry Phelps, United States, Tuesday, 6-4, 7-5.

Third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia had little trouble in advancing to the second round, losing only eight points on her serve in a 6-3, 6-1 victory over England's Jo Durie.

Sukova broke Durie's serve three times in the opening set, then snapped out of a 1-1 tie by winning the final five games of the second set.

Also Tuesday, fourth-seeded Zina Garrison, United States, topped Australia's Anne Minter, 6-2, 6-4; and eighth-seeded Lori McNeil shrugged off match point to beat Elise Burgin, United States, 6-7, 6-4, 7-5.

McNeil, ranked no. 13 in the world, pulled out of a 4-5, 30-40 hole in the final set with two straight service winners. She then captured the game with a beautifully-placed crosscourt forehand.

McNeil, United States, followed by breaking Burgin's serve and then serving out the match. Garrison, ranked no. 7 in the world, had an easier time of it against Minter, who committed 10 double faults, including eight in the first set.

In other first-round matches, Wendy Turnbull defeated Joanne Russell, 6-1, 6-2, and South Africa's Elna Reinach eliminated Stacey Martin, 6-1, 6-3.

Cup semifinalist beaten in English league action

LONDON (AP) — A crowd of just 4,370, the lowest in the English First Division since World War II, turned up at Wimbledon and saw the home team beat Coventry City 2-1 in a league game.

Coventry, which next month plays in its first ever F.A. Cup semifinal, started full of confidence and took the lead Tuesday night after just four minutes through Mickey Gynn.

But Wimbledon settled down and John Fasham equalised after 26 minutes before Carlton Fairweather clinched victory.

None of the leading teams were in action in the night's four First Division games.

Southampton took a decisive step away from the relegation zone with its second home victory in four days, a 3-0 success over Luton Town.

Andy Townsend scored after just three minutes, George Lawrance added a second after 14 minutes and the same player put the result beyond doubt 15 minutes from the end.

Sheffield Wednesday, which knocked West Ham out of this season's F.A. Cup, beat the Londoners, again, Lee Chapman scoring after five minutes and Carl Shutt after 58 in a 2-0 away success.

France, king of Europe, in danger of losing crown

LONDON (R) — After thrilling the world with its cavalier soccer for five years, European champion France looks doomed to lose its crown as the qualifying competition for the 1988 finals approaches the final stages.

The team which reached the semifinals of the 1982 World Cup in Spain, lifted the European Championship on home soil in 1984 and reached the last four of the 1986 Mexico World Cup, has been dismantled and, after three qualifying games, has yet to enjoy a victory in Group Three.

Michel Platini, now a faded version of the man who inspired the 1984 win, remains in midfield, but France has all but been replaced, not only at the top of Group Three, but also on top of Europe, by the impressive Soviet Union and look unlikely to be among the eight teams who will line up for the finals in West Germany next year.

A crushing 2-0 victory by the Soviet team in Paris last October, with goals from Platini's replacement as European Footballer of the Year, Oleg Belonov, and Vassily Raza, effectively ended the era of French soccer dominance.

France's only hope of resur-

recting its chances will come when it visits the Soviet Union in September, assuming it can win in Norway in June and if the Soviet Union slip in fixtures at home to East Germany or in Norway.

Traditional power Spain, Italy and England have already emerged as likely finalists from Groups One, Two and Four in which each have enjoyed 100 per cent records to date.

They are likely to be joined in the finals by the re-emerging Netherlands, led by prolific striker Marco Van Basten and the inspirational Ruud Gullit, although it may face a struggle to overcome the threat of Poland and Greece in Group Five.

In Group Six, Denmark, exhilarating semi-finalists in 1984, looks likely to qualify ahead of Czechoslovakia and in Group Seven World Cup semi-finalists Belgium should confirm its maturing strength by qualifying ahead of Scotland and Ireland.

Albania, Malta, Norway, Turkey, Cyprus, Finland and Luxembourg, the bottom teams in each of the seven groups, have little hope of qualifying and can plan alternative itineraries for the summer of 1988.

Briton Bruno mauls Tillis as Tyson sizes up boxer

LONDON (R) — Britain's Frank Bruno took a big step towards another shot at the world heavyweight title by pouncing on James "Quick" Tillis into fifth round submission in their scheduled 10-round bout.

Bruno dominated from the start and finished off the American with a furious combination of left and rights capped off by a thundering right uppercut that brought blood gushing from the American's lip.

Tillis, with blood splattered all over his white trunks, signalled to referee John Coyle that he had enough and the Tuesday night fight was stopped.

It was a triumphant return for Bruno, fighting for the first time since losing his bid for the World Boxing Association title against American Tim Witherspoon eight months ago.

With undisputed world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson watching at ringside, the muscular Briton re-established himself as a leading contender

and may soon figure in the 20-year-old New Yorker's defence plans.

Tillis, a late replacement for injured compatriot Greg Page, was overcome by Bruno's punching power and lost for the 12th time in 50 bouts.

Veteran Tillis was considered a fair test for Bruno since he was the first fighter to go the distance with Tyson in February last year.

Bruno improved his record to 29 wins against two defeats.

Tyson congratulated Bruno in the ring and fuelled speculation that the pair may meet later this year when he said: "He will be a good opponent for me. I'm looking forward to fighting him but I am not scared of him as I am champion of the world."

Bruno, who sparred with Tyson some four years ago, rates his chances against the champion. "I'm telling you it will be an explosive fight," he said. "Don't get me wrong, I think he'll be a great fighter. But he is young, I fancy my chances, that's the way I think."

E. Germany intends to attend Seoul Olympics

TOKYO (R) — The president of the East German parliament said Wednesday his country intended to participate in the 1988 Olympic Games in South Korea and hoped that this would help normalise relations between the two countries.

Horst Sindermann, speaking at a press conference here, denied East Germany may participate in an East Bloc walkout of the Seoul Games which organisers fear North Korea may try to stage unless the Games are jointly hosted by the two Koreas.

East Germany joined a Soviet-led boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games and has no diplomatic relations with Seoul.

Sindermann said that his country supported North Korea's proposal to host part of the Olympic Games. But he added: "We have no intention at all of

making it a condition for our participation whether part of the Games are held in North Korea or not."

Sindermann, visiting Japan at the invitation of the speaker of the lower house, said participation in the Olympics should be a matter to be determined by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose authority his country wished to strengthen.

On a recent visit by East German sports officials to Seoul, however, problems concerning his country's participation in the Games had been discussed, he said.

"I would be very glad should the Olympic Games serve as an occasion to normalise relations with South Korea," he said.

"We want to establish normal diplomatic relations with every country."

Villa headed for relegation

LONDON (AP) — While Liverpool steams towards a ninth English soccer league title in 12 seasons, Aston Villa, one of the other three teams to have won the championship during that period, appears to be heading towards Division Two.

Villa, European Champion's Cup winner in 1982, is stuck in the relegation zone and is likely to join its central English neighbours, Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion, in the Second Division next year.

Despite an array of expensive, high-quality players, including England international Steve Hum and Scottish striker Andy Gray, Villa has been languishing in the bottom three since shortly after Christmas.

Although wracked by injuries, the team also has suffered from

an alarming lack of confidence. Last week's 5-0 defeat at Southampton — another struggling side — took the number of goals leaked by Villa's defence to 66 from 32 league games.

Manager Billy McNeill, famous for captaining the Glasgow Celtic side that won the Champions' Cup in 1967, inherited a struggling side when he took over from Graham Turner in September.

But things got worse instead of better with long-term injuries to new signing Neale Cooper, midfielder Andy Blair, winger Mark Walters and strikers Gary Shaw, Garry Thompson and Gray.

McNeill became dissatisfied with the attitude shown by some of the star players in the side. "I want the players to roll up their sleeves and show pride and character," the tall Scot said.

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Sudan rejects IMF demands

CAIRO (R) — Sudan has rejected a demand by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a currency devaluation because such a move would have a negative impact on its economy, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported.

Finance Minister Beshir Omar, quoted by SUNA, said his government also rejected an IMF demand to lift state subsidies on basic consumer goods.

SUNA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Mr. Omar made the remarks after a meeting in Khartoum Tuesday with IMF envoy, Mr. Abdul Shakour Shaalan.

Sudan, burdened by a foreign debt of \$10.6 billion, is some \$500 million in arrears to the IMF, which declared it ineligible for fresh loans in February last year. In February 1985, Sudan announced a 48 per cent devaluation of its pound against the dollar, adjusting the official exchange rate to 2.5 pounds to the U.S. currency.

Since then, it has resisted pressure from main creditors for

more currency adjustments, arguing that past devaluations had failed to boost exports but raised local consumer prices.

Sudan also has an incentive rate of four pounds to the dollar for foreign visitors and remittances by expatriate workers.

Dealers in Khartoum's thriving black market said the dollar was sold at 5.5 pounds Tuesday.

With stringent import regulations and the government increasingly short of foreign currency, black market dollars are used to finance smuggled imports from neighbouring countries, mainly Egypt, Kenya, Ethiopia and Zaire.

Western diplomats in Khartoum say the meetings between IMF and Sudanese government officials do not amount to formal talks, but rather an effort by the IMF to monitor Sudan's economic performance.

The diplomats said Sudan hoped a planned four-year economic recovery programme would be acceptable to the IMF as a serious attempt to tackle the country's economic troubles and

persuade its Gulf Arab creditors to pay the IMF arrears.

This, they said, could provide Sudan with a clean bill of health from the IMF that it could take to Western government creditors, grouped informally in the so-called Paris Club, to reschedule debt payments.

Twenty-three per cent of Sudan's total foreign debt is owed to members of the Paris Club, the diplomats say.

Sudan's finance minister said last month the country's IMF representative had told him the fund's executive board was "very pleased with the \$18.5 million arrears we have paid in the past couple of months."

The representative, Mr. Omar Said, reported that IMF Managing Director Michael Camdessus said he would ask Saudi Arabia, to which Sudan owes about \$1.4 billion, to help Khartoum to pay more.

Sudan has an annual debt liability of nearly \$900 million but set aside only some \$200 million to service debts in the fiscal year ending next June 30.

M.E. currency dealers open talks tomorrow

BAHRAIN (R) — Middle East currency dealers meet in Abu Dhabi this weekend amid changing business patterns in which a growing volume of trade has shifted from the Arab World to London.

The 14th congress of the Inter-Arab Cambiste Association also comes at a time when the prospect of a unified Gulf currency system is more real than at any time this decade.

Foreign exchange traders and bank treasurers said these issues, plus the almost relentless slide of the Lebanese pound in war-torn Beirut can be expected to be major talking points.

About 250 traders and treasurers from 115 banks, including some in London and other major non-Arab financial centres, are expected to attend the conference from late Friday to Sunday.

Bankers said it is difficult to avoid the impression that a growing proportion of transactions in the Saudi rial market, by far the largest in the region, is being carried out in London.

Trading had been dominated by Saudi Arabia's 11 banks,

money changers in the kingdom and offshore banks in Bahrain.

But bankers said more and more Saudi and Bahrain-based banks are boosting their treasury operations in London.

As recession hit the Middle East and the need for trade finance in the region declined, many offshore banks in Bahrain ran down their currency operations.

Not one of the four major British clearing banks now has a dealing room on the island.

The two major Bahrain-based banks, Arab Banking Corp and Gulf International Bank, have increased their presence in London and Saudi banks are busy upgrading representative offices to branch status to allow dealing.

One economist said: "It is cheaper to run a rial book in London than staff an expensive offshore operation in Bahrain ...

there is now the nucleus of a two-way market in London."

Jeddah-based Riyadh Bank set up as a licensed deposit taker — enabling dealing — in London in 1984 and its main rival National Commercial Bank (NCB) won a licence in November 1986.

The major market force has traditionally been a London-based consortium operation, Saudi International Bank, but the kingdom joint-venture Saudi-American Bank (SAMBA) also upgraded its London operation to take deposits in mid-February.

One senior currency trader in Riyadh said: "Inevitably the volume of business in London has gained pace with the two new licences for NCB and SAMBA, but there is no question that most of the liquidity still rests in Saudi Arabia."

Currency traders said the shift to London in the Saudi rial market is difficult to quantify.

But Bahrain Monetary Agency figures show regional currency deposits held by offshore banks, most in Saudi rials, dropped to the equivalent of \$12.2 billion at

end-September 1986 from \$13.4 billion at end-1985 and a 1983 peak of \$15.0 billion.

The shift has changed dealing habits.

Riyal trading in the Gulf on Saturdays and Sundays has become very quiet in the absence of London while some Saudi and Bahrain banks now staff offices on Friday, the Gulf weekend.

Traders say it is difficult to foresee the rial market moving completely out of the region and there are few signs of the Kuwaiti dinar market shifting from its natural base in Kuwait.

But for the first time since the formation of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1981 there are signs that a much mooted currency union could come into force soon.

Currency traders said it remains unclear what form a final currency system would take for the six states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

But plans to link the six currencies in a European Monetary

System style with a common peg have been discussed at high level and could be a topic on the GCC's annual summit expected to be held in Saudi Arabia late in the year.

One dealer said: "A lot of exposure is being given to discussions and plans appear to be quite advanced. But in the end a political decision has to be taken to give the go-ahead."

One open question is that of a common peg for currencies. The Kuwaiti dinar is currently linked to a basket of currencies while the other five currencies are either officially or in practice linked to the U.S. dollar.

One further topic for debate is expected to be the continued slide of the Lebanese pound against the dollar and the undermining of the effective capital base of Lebanese banks.

Lebanese authorities have introduced a package of measures to shore up the ailing pound, but bankers say in the final analysis only a political solution to the country's civil war will halt the slide.

South Africa, creditors agree on new terms to repay debt

LONDON (R) — South Africa and its commercial bank creditors have agreed on new terms to repay \$14 billion of debt, extending for three years an agreement freezing interest payments, banking sources said Tuesday.

South Africa froze repayment on \$14 billion of its \$24 billion debt in September 1985 after serious political violence prompted overseas banks to cut credit lines.

Under the so-called "standstill agreement," which was to expire on June 30 but which has now been extended until June 30, 1990, South Africa will not pay interest on this frozen debt.

But the new terms, reached after months of intense negotiation, provide for an immediate repayment to South Africa's creditor banks of three per cent of the frozen debt, the banking sources said. This payment is due on July 15, 1987.

It will be followed by various payments at six-month intervals over the life of the agreement, totalling some \$1.5 billion, they added. These repayments will be determined by a formula based on the life of the loans each creditor bank had extended to South Africa, the bankers said.

The bankers, who declined to be identified, said the agreement also will give banks the option to convert the existing debt into 10-year loans with a five year period during which no interest would be paid.

An agreement reached last year allowed for the conversion of the short-term debt covered by the standstill into three-year loans.

Mediterranean conference focusses on migrant workers

TUNIS (R) — A 10-nation conference on unemployment in Mediterranean countries has ended with an agreement to set up a working group to coordinate action.

A communique Tuesday night after the two-day conference, the first of its kind, said labour ministers concentrated on problems such as migrant workers.

Countries including France and Italy, which organised the conference with Tunisia, have large communities of migrant workers from North African and other states.

Italian Labour Minister Gianni De Michelis told a news conference the working group would study proposals put forward at the conference and a follow-up meeting would be held later.

He said a central theme was not only to have economic and financial cooperation between Mediterranean states, but also cooperation in the fields of education, job training and the transfer of technology.

French Social Affairs Minister Philippe Seguin, who also attended the conference, said in an interview in "the independent daily Le Temps Wednesday: "We do not yet have a definition of Mediterranean policy on the bat-

tle against unemployment. It's obviously an extremely ambitious goal."

In an opening speech on Monday Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar pointed to a contrast between falling population growth rates in countries north of the Mediterranean and the south where they were rising sharply.

He said this fact, with its repercussions on the job market, could be a "complementary factor" if economic circumstances were right, the official TAP news agency reported.

Arab League Secretary General Chadli Kibiti told the conference that the economic crisis had meant more redundancies and expulsions for Arab migrant workers.

He added that Arab workers in Arab territories occupied by Israel were suffering "treatment contrary to the Geneva convention because of Israeli expansionist plans aimed at uprooting populations from their lands."

Countries taking part were France, Italy, Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Yugoslavia, Morocco, Spain, Turkey and Tunisia.

Representatives from the Arab League, the International Labour Organisation and the European Community also attended.

Suharto calls for hard work

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto, injecting a note of realism into Indonesia's election campaign, Wednesday called on the country's 168 million people to boost efficiency and work harder to make up for a slump in oil revenues.

In a message read out by President Suharto's cabinet ministers in all 27 provinces, the 65-year-old president said only through

hard work and greater productivity could the South East Asian country keep pace with the needs and aspirations of its growing population.

President Suharto said the fall in the price of oil, the country's main export, had severely restricted funds for the coming year.

In the budget for the coming financial year, starting on April 1, spending for many ministries has been severely curtailed because of lower revenues from oil and primary commodities like tin, rubber, tea and palm oil.

Japan fails to bolster dollar

TOKYO (R) — Japan pulled out all the stops Wednesday to push the value of hattered dollar back up, but only succeeded in preventing a further decline, foreign-exchange dealers said.

In a two-pronged attack, Japan's central bank aggressively bought dollars in the currency markets while its powerful ministry of international trade and industry (MITI) asked trade houses and exporters to moderate their dollar sales.

But by the end of the Tokyo trading day, the dollar was still hovering dangerously near its all-time low of 148.20 yen and the markets were still sceptical about Japan's ability to prevent a further decline in the currency, they said.

The Bank of Japan momentarily succeeded in pushing the U.S. currency just above the 150 yen level Wednesday morning, stepping into the market and buying \$200 million to \$300 million in the space of minutes.

But the dollar quickly fell back under a wave of selling as dealers concluded that America's huge trade deficit and Japan's large trade surplus pointed to further weakness. A lower dollar would increase the competitiveness of U.S. goods on world markets while making imports into America from Japan and other countries more expensive.

The U.S. currency ended the Tokyo trading day at 149.35 yen, just a shade above Tuesday's New York close of 149.05.

U.K. defends oil strategy

JEDDAH (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denied in an interview published in Saudi Arabia Wednesday that her government's oil policy contributed to weakness in world oil prices. She said the government was determined not to intervene to influence production decisions by oil companies operating in the North Sea.

"We believe these must be a matter for the commercial judgment of the oil companies," she told the Arabic language daily Al Sharq Al Awsat in an interview. Mrs. Thatcher said this policy had not contributed to the fall in oil prices as North Sea production was now about the same as in 1984.

Peru to swap products for foreign debt

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peru says it will open offices in Washington and Paris within a month to arrange deals with creditors to pay the country's foreign debt with such products as blue jeans, asparagus and golden inca designs instead of cash.

"This will be an important lever" to develop our exports in general and our manufactured products in particular," Deputy Finance Minister Gustavo Saberein said during a weekend economic forum at which he revealed the government's intention to open the offices.

A finance ministry official said Tuesday that the Washington office will work with American and Canadian creditors; the Paris office with European and East Bloc creditors.

Peru owes foreign banks and other creditors \$14 billion from loans contracted mainly during the late 1970s when banks were flush with oil money.

President Alan Garcia angered creditors and caused many to cut off loans when he imposed a debt repayment ceiling of 10 per cent

of export earnings after he took office in July 1985.

President Garcia said Peru, which was then in the midst of its worst recession of the century, could not pay the debt with the hunger of the people.

The government used the debt payment savings, along with its dollar reserves, to fuel an economic recovery programme based on internal production and consumption. As a result, Peru's economic growth rate in 1986, the first full year under the programme, was Latin America's fastest at nine per cent.

But reserves have fallen dramatically. With most credit lines severed, the government acknowledges new sources of foreign exchange must be developed to continue growth.

Confirming the debt trade plan, first proposed by Finance Minister Luis Alva Castro, Mr. Saberein said creditors who accept the debt-for-products swap also must agree to buy, with foreign currency, Peruvian exports valued at twice the amount

of the debt-trade deal.

"Those who accept products will receive higher payments than those disposed to accept payment only in dollars," Mr. Alva Castro said last month.

Mr. Saberein said more than 30 creditors have expressed interest in the plan; but he declined to name any.

Two years ago, Peru made direct trades of mineral and textile to pay off about \$200 million of its debt to several East Bloc nations. But similar agreements have not been pursued, the government has said.

Mr. Saberein said non-traditional exports and products from sectors earmarked for growth will be pushed by the foreign debt offices. Those products include gold and silver handicrafts, fish and agricultural products, candy, handicrafts and textiles.

The government has indicated that traditional exports such as minerals and coffee will not be involved to a large extent in any debt-trade arrangements.

Volcker opposes granting debt relief to Third World nations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker says proposals being considered in Congress to grant debt relief to less-developed countries would be the wrong way to handle the international debt problem.

Mr. Volcker, in a letter to representative Fernand St. Germain, chairman of the House of Representatives Banking Committee, voiced opposition to various bills being considered by the committee to write off a portion of the debt owed by large Third World debtors to U.S. banks.

"I believe that the prospect of debt relief would undermine the difficult internal efforts of the borrowing countries to achieve the structural reform that is needed," the chairman of the central bank said in the letter, a copy of which was obtained Tuesday by the Associated Press.

"Equally important, forgiveness of loans could have a serious effect over a considerable period of time on the willingness of the international private financial community to extend credit to the borrowing countries," Mr. Volcker said.

Mr. Volcker said he was making his comments so the committee would know his views before they began voting Wednesday on various proposals for a new banking bill.

On another matter being considered for the banking bill, Mr. Volcker cautioned against a proposal to require better coordination of exchange rates between countries.

He said efforts to legislate a formal framework for conducting international economic policy were unrealistic and "could well have damaging effects."

"My recommendation would be that we should not lock ourselves into formalised procedures for international negotiations to achieve specific objectives on exchange rates and external balances," Mr. Volcker wrote. "The fundamental policy objectives of the United States can best be implemented in a more flexible framework, such as through the recent meeting in Paris of finance ministers and central bank governors."

That session last month produced an agreement between the United States and five of its biggest trading partners to maintain the value of the dollar at essentially its current level.

Yugoslavia introduces tough new anti-inflation measures

BELGRADE (R) — Price inspectors will start work at enterprises all over Yugoslavia Thursday to enforce tough new price laws proposed by Prime Minister Branko Mikulic.

The price-clampdown follows a controversial wages freeze that touched off unprecedented strikes in Yugoslavia and political dissent, prompting a government warning at the weekend that the army could be called in.

Some 1,350 inspectors will check whether merchants have

compiled with government orders at the weekend to restore to 1986 year-end levels the prices of thousands of products.

At a session of the Yugoslav economic chamber Tuesday, Mr. Mikulic proposed a tough new set of anti-inflationary measures to follow up the price roll-back.

The new measures, dubbed "economic coercion laws" by the official Tanjug news agency which carried Mr. Mikulic's remarks, are aimed at irregularities in the Yugoslav economy.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One sterling	1.6120/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3084/89	Canadian dollar
	1.8240/50	West German marks
	2.0600/10	Dutch guilders
	1.5220/30	Swiss francs
	37.76/79	Belgian francs
	6.0700/50	French francs
	1297/1299	Italian lire
	148.78/85	Japanese yen
	6.3650/3700	Swedish crowns
	6.8725/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.8625/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	415.30/80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were languishing near the day's lows in late trading as the market paused after the run of three consecutive record high closings which started last Friday, dealers said.

By 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 19.5 from Tuesday's record high closing to Wednesday's low of 2,036.7. A lower start on Wall Street on Tuesday contributed modestly to the selling which dwindled to a trickle during the afternoon as operators lost interest in shares. "The market had been due some sort of a correction, so today's moves haven't really come as much of a surprise," one market maker said.

Wednesday's declines were partly exaggerated by the thinness of trading although some dealers saw the decline on Wednesday as nervousness in record territory.

But in the short term many investors are confident prices can pick up after a brief period of consolidation. Underpinning the market is the latest confederation of British industry survey indicating further growth and a belief that the recent string of encouraging corporate results will continue.

A wave of Japanese investment is forecast to break in London in the new tax year starting in April as investors react to changes in Japanese laws regarding overseas stock holdings.

Horoscope and Crosswords not received

Peanuts



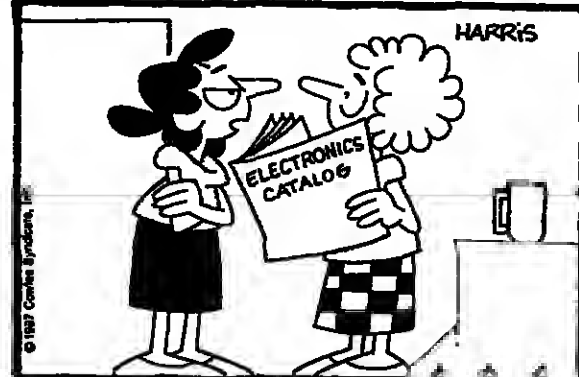
Mutt n' Jeff



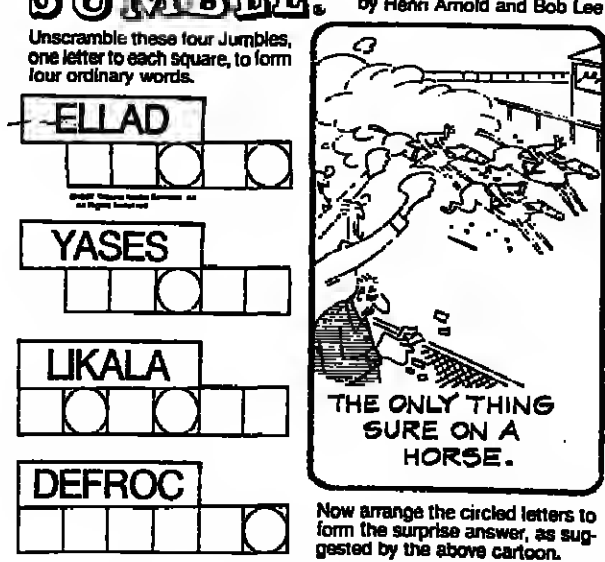
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here: THE (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: ABYSS WALTZ CORRAL NAUGHT
Answer: The girls wouldn't trust that cowboy because he was always trying to do this — THROW THE BULL.

Death toll in Afghan raid reaches 150 after news of attack on 3rd village

ISLAMABAD (R) — The death toll from Afghan bombing raids into Pakistan rose to almost 150 Wednesday as news reached Islamabad that a third village was attacked on Monday, Pakistani officials said.

About 45 people were killed and 59 injured in the inaccessibly village of Lwari Mandi, deep in the tribal area of North Waziristan, they said.

The number killed in two other frontier villages, bombed and rocketed by Afghan warplanes the same day, rose to at least 104 with 145 injured.

The government of Afghan Communist leader Najib has not commented on reports of the bombings that Tuesday had the death toll at 85. But it has dismissed past Pakistan charges of bombing and shelling across the border as baseless.

Pakistan Tuesday protested to

Kabul over what it described as "barbarous and wanton attacks on defenceless civilians" and warned that it reserved the right to retaliate.

The raids took place on Pakistan's National Day, as President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and other armed forces chiefs were reviewing a military parade in Rawalpindi.

Officials in the regional administrative centre of Dera Ismael Khan told Reuters by telephone that six Afghan planes bombed Lwari Mandi at 10 a.m. on Monday.

The village, some five to six kilometres from the border, is

deep in the territory of the Madakhel branch of the fiercely independent Waziri tribe.

News of the raid had taken two days to filter out because the village was physically and politically inaccessible, said one official.

"It's physically inaccessible because one has to walk 20-25 miles (35-40 kilometres) to get there, and politically inaccessible because the tribesmen hardly ever allow any government official in," he said.

The bombs destroyed 35-40 shops and some houses and killed 21 civilians, he added.

About 35 of the wounded were brought to the district centre of Miranshah and 26 of these transported to Peshawar, capital of North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

The official said the Western-

backed Afghan guerrillas who operate from bases all along the Pakistani side of the frontier, had not been particularly active in Lwari Mandi.

Najib and his Soviet backers accuse Pakistan of helping the West wage an "undeclared war" against his government by arming and training the anti-Communist rebels.

Teri Mangal, the worst-hit of the three villages, is on an important supply route for the guerrillas, known as Mujahideen. It lies close to the border at the head of salient of Pakistani territory, jutting into Afghanistan West of Peshawar.

Provincial government officials in Peshawar said the death toll there had risen to 81 from the original 51, as more bodies were dug out of wrecked buildings.

Hu attends Chinese parliament session

PEKING (R) — Former Chinese Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang attended a Chinese parliamentary session Wednesday in his first public appearance since his dismissal in January.

Mr. Hu took his place on the platform of the massive auditorium of Peking's Great Hall of the People as 3,000 delegates gathered for the opening meeting of the National People's Congress annual session.

Mr. Hu was dismissed from the top Communist Party job in mid-January after being accused of "mistakes," including a failure to combat Western political ideas. He has not been seen in public since.

Mr. Hu took his seat in the second front row with two empty seats between him and Premier Zhao Ziyang, who replaced him

as acting party secretary. Millions of people saw Mr. Hu as television cameras broadcast the event live showed a close-up of him for several seconds, wearing a dark Western suit and tie and reading the conference notes attentively with pencil in hand.

The top political commissar in the People's Liberation Army, Yu Qijun, stopped beside Mr. Hu's seat to shake hands with him. Mr. Hu was on the stage in his capacity as a member of the Congress Presidium.

Mr. Hu has been attacked by party officials including China's leader, Deng Xiaoping, for failing to stop the spread of "bourgeois liberal" ideas over the past few years, culminating in street protests last December by students calling for more democracy.

Haughey pledges to honour Anglo-Irish agreement

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Ireland's new Prime Minister Charles Haughey has promised to honour the Anglo-Irish agreement on Northern Ireland.

Reversing a pre-election pledge, he said Tuesday he would not seek to renegotiate any part of the accord.

Before the Feb. 17 general election, he repeatedly indicated he wanted to renegotiate parts of the accord that he said clashed with Ireland's constitutional claim to Northern Ireland.

But he told the Dail, or lower house of the Irish parliament, there was no question of renegotiating any part of it.

The Fianna Fail leader was voted in as prime minister by a vote of 83 to 82 in the Dail on March 10. He beat former Prime

Minister Garret Fitzgerald in the general election but fell three seats short of winning an outright majority.

The Anglo-Irish agreement was signed by Mr. Fitzgerald and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Nov. 15, 1985.

The accord gives the government of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic a formal consultative role in the running of predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland.

In exchange, it binds the Dublin government to acceptance of long-term British rule in Northern Ireland by recognising there can be no change in the status of the province without the agreement of the majority of the people there.

2nd Marine suspect held for Moscow espionage

WASHINGTON (R) — A second Marine has been arrested on suspicion of espionage-related activity at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, the Defense Department said.

It said Corporal Arnold Bracy, 21, of New York City, was jailed Tuesday as a result of the continuing investigation of Sergeant Clayton Louctree, accused of espionage at the U.S. embassies in Moscow and Vienna.

The Defense Department and Marine Corps said Bracy's tour at the U.S. embassy in Moscow overlapped Louctree's but they gave no details on whether Bracy and Louctree were accused of

involvement in the same or separate activities.

A Marine Corps official who did not want to be identified said he did not know whether the two had collaborated. He also said it would be inappropriate to comment on whether there are additional suspects.

Louctree has been formally charged with identifying U.S. intelligence agents and turning over other secret information to Soviet agents in Moscow and Vienna in the last two years.

Louctree was seduced and recruited by a Soviet woman who worked at the embassy, according to published reports.

Buddhist monks urge Gandhi not to harm Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's influential Buddhist monks have appealed to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi not to take any action that would undermine the island's sovereignty or harm bilateral relations.

Leading monks made the appeal in a telegram Tuesday after discussing Sri Lanka's bloody Tamil separatist conflict and India's role in mediating to find a peaceful solution.

Sri Lanka's 35,000 monks wield considerable influence among Buddhists, who are mostly Sinhalese and form 70 per cent of the population of 15 million.

The monks' message, made available to the press, said they were concerned at a danger to peace arising from what they called rapidly deteriorating relations between the two countries over the conflict.

Politicians in south India, which has a large Tamil population that is sympathetic to the separatists, last week urged the Indian government to take action to end what they described as the massacre of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Guerrillas of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, which is mainly Hindu, are fighting Colombo's army to set up a separate state in the north and east of the island.

The monks said they were appealing to Mr. Gandhi to rise above mundane politics and uphold the ideals of Indians such as the Buddha, Emperor Ashoka, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.

They urged him to "refrain from taking any steps that could be harmful ... to our cordial relationship and to the unity, integrity and sovereignty of this country and finally to the peace and harmony of this region."

Military sources said a search Tuesday by troops and police backed by helicopters in the northern Jaffna peninsula failed to find eight members of the security forces captured by guerrillas during a clash on Monday.

The Sun and the independent newspapers said the guerrillas planned to seek the release of 20 of their colleagues in exchange for the five soldiers and three policemen.

Indian space officials call rocket disaster big setback

NEW DELHI (R) — The dramatic failure of India's first intercontinental-range rocket, which plunged into the sea before a startled Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday, will not affect future launches, space officials said Wednesday.

Other launches would go ahead as scheduled, although the officials said India's space programme had suffered a major setback when the augmented satellite launch vehicle (ASLV) splashed into the Bay of Bengal two minutes after lift-off.

Government scientific Advisor C.N.R. Rao told the Press Trust of India (PTI) the failure of the

ASLV, which officials are still investigating, was "terribly disappointing."

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who attended the launch at Sriharikota in south India, told scientists who worked on the project not to feel disheartened, PTI reported.

Mr. Gandhi said the failure was a "small stumble" and the Indian space research organisation should continue its work, PTI said.

Space Commission Chairman Udipi Ramachandra Rao said the failure would not affect future launches of the ASLV and of the more advanced polar rockets.

'Casey heavily involved in supplying contras'

NEW YORK (R) — Former U.S. Central Intelligence Agency director William Casey was heavily involved in the Reagan administration's efforts to get military supplies to Nicaraguan rebels, newspaper reports said Wednesday.

Mr. Casey, now critically ill after brain-tumour surgery, has become the focus for congressional investigations into the scandal, the New York Times reported, citing three unnamed congressmen investigating the Iran-contras scandal.

The three congressmen said they did not know whether Mr. Casey was involved in diverting funds from arms sales to Iran to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras.

But one said: "Casey's fingerprints are everywhere. (Lieutenant Colonel Oliver) North surely needed the expertise and help of the CIA to do all the things he did in Central America."

The Washington Post said the probability that Mr. Casey's illness would keep him from testifying would leave large gaps in investigations because Mr. Casey was a leading advocate of U.S. support for the contras and for U.S. arms sales to Iran.

It quoted former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, a member of the presidential commission investigating the Iran arms scandal, as saying recently that the commissioners felt Mr. Casey knew more about the scandal than anyone except Col. North, who was fired from his White House post on the National Security Council on Nov. 25.

The Post gave no details of Mr. Casey acting to supply the rebels

but said it was he who began the U.S. covert aid operation that led to creation of the contras in 1981 and who was one of the contras' chief defenders in the administration.

It also said Mr. Casey wrote a memorandum on Dec. 10, 1985, after a White House meeting expressing confidence that President Reagan would approve U.S. arms sales to Iran if that would free U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

It said Mr. Casey's memo for his own files read: "I suspect (Reagan) would be willing to run the risk and take the heat in the future if this will lead to springing the hostages."

In other developments Tuesday, Senate opponents of aid to the Nicaraguan contras failed again to shut down a filibuster and move toward a vote on a six-month halt in military assistance to the rebels.

The vote was an evenly divided 50-50, or 10 votes short of the 60 needed to end a filibuster.

Senate Majority leader Robert Byrd, an opposition Democrat, said another attempt would be made Wednesday and possibly yet another Thursday. "It depends on how much gain we make," he said.

A first attempt to choke off the filibuster failed Monday, with 46 senators favouring it and 45 voting against it.

However, Sen. Byrd said the real goal now is merely to rally a "constitutional majority" of 51 votes, all that would be required to kill President Reagan's request for an additional \$105 million in aid to the contras when that request reaches the Senate floor later this year.

Abrams: U.S. will not abandon Nicaraguan rebels

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's administration will never abandon the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels and fully expects to win more aid for them later this year, Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams has said.

Mr. Abrams, a key manager of the aid programme, spoke confidently in a meeting with a private research group despite continued efforts by congressional critics to end U.S. support for the rebels fighting Managua's leftist government.

"The administration is not

going to abandon the resistance under any circumstances," Mr. Abrams told a reception organised by the Ethics and Public Policy Centre.

He said a vote next September or October on Reagan's request for \$105 million in 1988 for the rebels would go in the president's favour.

In Tegucigalpa, Nicaraguan rebels Tuesday reported combat with government troops in several Nicaraguan provinces and promised to paralyse Nicaragua with attacks on energy and economic targets.

COLUMNS 7&8

Jewish burial stopped after body mix-up

TEL AVIV (R) — The black-garbed rabbis and seminary students thought they were burying a late Jewish philanthropist from Chicago — until they saw a nun in this coffin. A body mix-up at Tel Aviv airport's incoming freight department almost led to the interment of the nun in a grave in the Jewish cemetery in Jerusalem, the Israeli newspaper Davar and Yedioth Ahronoth said. The bodies were sent from the United States for burial in a holy land. The philanthropist's coffin was mistakenly taken to an Orthodox Jewish Haredi sect in the city. The mistake was discovered during what was supposed to be the American Jew's funeral, when, in accordance with Israeli Jewish tradition, the body was taken out of the coffin for burial. Instead of a corpse wrapped in a Jewish ritual shroud, mourners found the body of a nun, dressed in a white habit, a cross around her neck. The funeral was abruptly stopped, religious officials launched a successful search for the missing philanthropist and Monday both the deceased ended their last journey in the right graves.

Youths plead guilty in father's death

RIVERHEAD, New York (R) — A 17-year-old girl who said her father sexually abused her and the classmate she hired to kill him both pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Cheryl Pierson, 17, crying profusely, told Judge Harvey Sherman she paid \$400 to Sean Pica, also 17, for the Feb. 15, 1986, shooting of her father, James Pierson, in the driveway of their home in the New York suburb of Selden. "I told him I wanted him to kill my father because my father had sexually and physically abused me," the girl said. Pica said he hid behind a tree and fired a .22-calibre rifle at Pierson "when he left for work." "He fell to the ground," Pica said. "I walked over to him and pumped four more rounds into his body. Then I went to school." The judge said he would consider placing Ms. Pierson on probation, in which case she would not go to jail. He said Pica would get between 8½ and 25 years in prison.

Thieves steal couturier's collection

MILAN, Italy (R) — Thieves have stolen Italian couturier Krizia's entire 1987-88 autumn winter collection, the fashion house has said. A spokeswoman said the thieves broke into the main Krizia showroom in Milan on Monday night and made off with some 1,600 garments worth about 800 million lire (\$615,000). The collection was presented at the Milan fashion shows earlier this month. The spokeswoman said it was feared black marketers intended to flood the market with cheap copies. "The biggest risk is that the people who commissioned the theft will enter the market before us with thousands of imitations," the spokeswoman said.

1,388 Americans imprisoned abroad

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 1,300 Americans are locked up in foreign jails, and the State Department says it is unable to ensure humane treatment for some of them. At the end of last year, 1,388 Americans in 79 nations were serving sentences or awaiting trial on charges ranging from border jumping to murder, according to a recent State Department report. One-third of the prisoners were jailed for drug offenses. Mexico, with 313 Americans in jail, led the list followed by West Germany with 166, Canada with 163 and Britain with 88.

Greek church supporters clash with Athens police

ATHENS (R) — Fist fights erupted Wednesday between supporters of the Greek Orthodox Church and police as bishops held a service protesting government plans to take over church lands. Shouting "hands off our church" and "shame, shame," thousands of church supporters chased police who apparently tried to unplug a loudspeaker system relaying the service outside the church of St. Pantelimon.

Police said there were no injuries or arrests.

The 78 bishops were boycotting an annual Independence Day service in Athens cathedral to commemorate the beginning of a revolt against Ottoman rule in 1821 which won Greece independence in 1830.

The bishops said they did not want to be in the same church as Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who has announced plans to take over 130,000 hectares (325,000 acres) of church forests and meadows and give the state more power in church affairs.

Bomb explodes in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (R) — A car bomb exploded early Wednesday near a synagogue in central Stockholm, police said.

No-one was injured. The car was destroyed, three others were damaged and dozens of windows were shattered.

No one had claimed responsibility and no connection with the synagogue had been established, they said.

Chaim Ben-Ari, head of Stock-

holm's Jewish Burial Society, told Israel Armed Forces Radio by telephone that it was unclear whether the bomb was intended for the Adat Yisrael Synagogue.

"We don't know if it was meant for the synagogue or something else," he said. "Only a few windows, not at the synagogue but in a house before it, were broken."

The radio said the explosion occurred about 100 metres from the synagogue.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARAF
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CONCEAL YOUR HOLDING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 6 5
♥ A K 7 4
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 8 5 5

WEST
♠ 9 6
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ K 8 2
♣ K 10 7 2

EAST
♠ K 3
♥ 9 8 2
♦ 10 8 7 6
♣ A Q 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 7 4 2
♥ 5 3
♦ A Q J
♣ J

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠

You may not agree with all Marshall Miles has to say on bridge theory, but you pay attention. His ideas on the play of the cards, in particular, are well worth careful study.

In a recent article in the ACBL Bulletin, he discussed concealment of your holding. This hand highlights what he had in mind. Playing in a pairs tournament, South declares four spades after a routine auction and West leads the top of his heart sequence.

Obviously, you have only three losers, so it is a question of your best line for an overtrick. Should you use your two entries to dummy for trump or diamond finesse? Miles argues convincingly that the

diamond finessses are superior. The trump finessses won't help if the suit breaks 4-0, and you have a better chance of drawing a singleton king in spades than in diamonds. And if the diamond finesse loses, you might still be able to pick up the king of trumps with one finesse.

However, Miles points out that it might be fatal to lead a diamond to the jack at trick two. If the cards are as shown in the diagram, an expert defender could hold up the king, tempting you to repeat the diamond finesse and so lose your overtrick. If, instead, you lead a diamond to the queen, it is almost impossible for West to duck with the king, since it might be giving you a trick and the contract. With the diamond situation resolved, you know whether to use your remaining entry to the table to repeat the diamond finesse or to switch to the spade finesse. The rule: Play the higher, or highest, of equals if you don't want the opponents to duck.

Have you been running into double trouble? Let Charles Goren help you find your way through the maze of DOUBLES for penalties and for takeout. For a copy of his "DOUBLES" booklet, send \$1.95 to "Goren-Doubles," care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 4426 Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426. Make checks payable to "Newspaperbooks."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ertreson

WESTWARD HO!

By Hank Harrington

ACROSS

- 1 — Ximopig
- 5 Old West
- 10 Dope
- 13 Tail tale
- 15 Farm machine
- 17 Calf
- 18 Fr. lady abbr.
- 22 Good-bye
- 23 Of locust pest.
- 24 Siles river
- 25 Toot
- 26 Truck found.
- 28 Oven
- 30 Wandering
- 31 Depot abbr.
- 32 Old West pathing areas
- 35 Severe

DOWN

- 2 Pedestal part
- 3 Charles Lamb
- 4 Area without
- 5 Old West towns
- 6 Ship's curved
- 7 God of war
- 8 Part of an hr.
- 9 Possible
- 10 Old West
- 11 Famous instrument maker
- 12 Each
- 13 Bad type
- 14 Prelude for short
- 15 Gr. letters
- 16 Salsoon
- 20 Camp sight
- 21 Straps
- 27 Barometer
- 28 Expert
- 29 — Bewildered
- 30 US president
- 31 Hole
- 32 Past target
- 35 Indian city
- 36 German
- 37 "Ode on a Grecian —"
- 38 Machine part
- 39 Me.
- 40 Light wood
- 42 Rocket stage
- 43 — Grass
- 44 Old West transportation (w/ 44A)
- 45 Don
- 46 Connect
- 48 Beverages
- 49 Periods of depression
- 50 Celtic sea god

Diagramless

19 X 21, by Neil Mc Carthy

ACROSS

- 1 Portent
- 4 Golf goal
- 5 Lefty mail var.
- 6 Ship's curved
- 7 — and heavy
- 11 Depot abbr.
- 14 "Ban Shop" playwright
- 15 Very black
- 17 House wear
- 20 King's title
- 21 Caproom author

DOWN

- 1 H. range
- 2 Steward
- 3 Essay
- 4 Captain Red
- 7 Zee's sister
- 8 Be an accessory
- 9 Location
- 10 Wind dir.
- 11 Secret
- 12 Rap
- 13 Dope
- 15 Spine-tingling
- 16 Steward
- 19 Musical
- 22 Captain Red
- 23 Price
- 25 Area
- 28 Arthur of TV
- 30 Rain
- 31 Year
- 33 Roofing stuff
- 35 Employa

ACROSS

- 24 Give an account
- 25 Foreman old
- 27 Vial
- 28 His Reginald
- 30 Sailed
- 31 Sassy
- 32 Holy women
- 33 Sort of sour
- 34 Virginia
- 35 Literary miscellany
- 36 Follies part
- 37 Picture
- 40 Touch lightly
- 43 Residence
- 44 Dr. composer
- 45 Dance topper
- 46 Unadorned
- 49 Sir up
- 51 Alps
- 52 Algerian port
- 53 Seaver or Jones
- 54 Beginner var.
- 55 Haydens

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